
SKIN DEEP





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CHARLES BURNS



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

Written, drawn, and designed
by Charles Burns
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and Kim Thompson

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Dog Days


THE BACKYARD OF SAM SABLOSKY...
ALMOST DONE... LET'S GET THIS LAST BOARD...
WOW... IT'S A BEAUTY!
YEAH, AND THERE'S LOTS OF ROOM...
HEY, WOULDN'T IT BE NEAT TO SPEND THE NIGHT OUT HERE?
YEAH! LET'S GO ASK MY MOM!
HI, MOM... CAN TONY AND I SPEND THE NIGHT OUT IN OUR NEW FORT? TONY'S MOM SAYS IT'S O.K.
HI, MOM... CAN I STAY OVER AT SAM'S TONIGHT? HIS MOM SAYS IT'S O.K.
YEAH!


THAT NIGHT IN SAM AND TONY'S FORT...
COME ON, TONY! NO MORE SCARY STORIES... I'M GETTING SPOOKED!
LET ME FINISH! I'M JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART!
...SO ANYWAY, HE'S TRAPPED DOWN IN THE CAVE AND HE'S JUST FOUND HIS FRIEND... DEAD!
THE BATTERIES IN HIS FLASHLIGHT ARE GETTING WEAK SO HE CAN BARELY SEE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HIS FRIEND HAS BEEN CLAWED TO DEATH!
CLAWED BY WHAT? JUST THEN HE HEARS THIS FUNNY SOUND... LIKE SCRATCHING OR SOMETHING... AND GETTING CLOSER... CLOSER!
HE TRIES TO SEE WHAT IT IS, BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN HIS FLASHLIGHT GOES DEAD! IT'S BLACK! PITCH BLACK! AND THE SCRATCHING SOUND IS GETTING CLOSER... CLOSER!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
UH... TONY? ARE YOU MAKING THAT SOUND?
HEY! WHERE YOU GOING?
COME ON... LET'S GO SEE WHAT'S MAKING THAT NOISE!
HOLD IT, SAM... UH... MAYBE THAT'S NOT A VERY GOOD IDEA...
WHAT? ARE YOU SCARED OR SOMETHING? YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S ALWAYS TELLING CREEPY STORIES AND STUFF!
I KNOW, BUT THOSE ARE JUST STORIES... THIS... THIS IS THE REAL THING!
O.K. FRAIDY CAT... I'LL GO LOOK BY MYSELF...


SAM! WAIT UP!
QUIET! IT'S COMING FROM OVER THE FENCE!
JEEZ... WHO'S THAT?
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
IT'S DOG-BOY...
DOG-BOY? THAT'S A WEIRD NAME... WHY'S HE CALLED DOG-BOY?
I DUNNO, BUT THAT'S WHAT ALL THE KIDS CALL HIM...HE JUST MOVED IN A COUPLE OF HOUSES DOWN...
HEY, LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE FORT...I'M GETTING KINDA SLEEPY...
YOU'RE NOT SLEEPY...YOU'RE SCARED! COME ON...LET'S WAIT AND SEE WHAT HE'S DIGGING FOR...
AAAOOOOHHH!
AHHHH... AT LAST! I KNEW I BURIED IT BACK HERE SOMEWHERE...

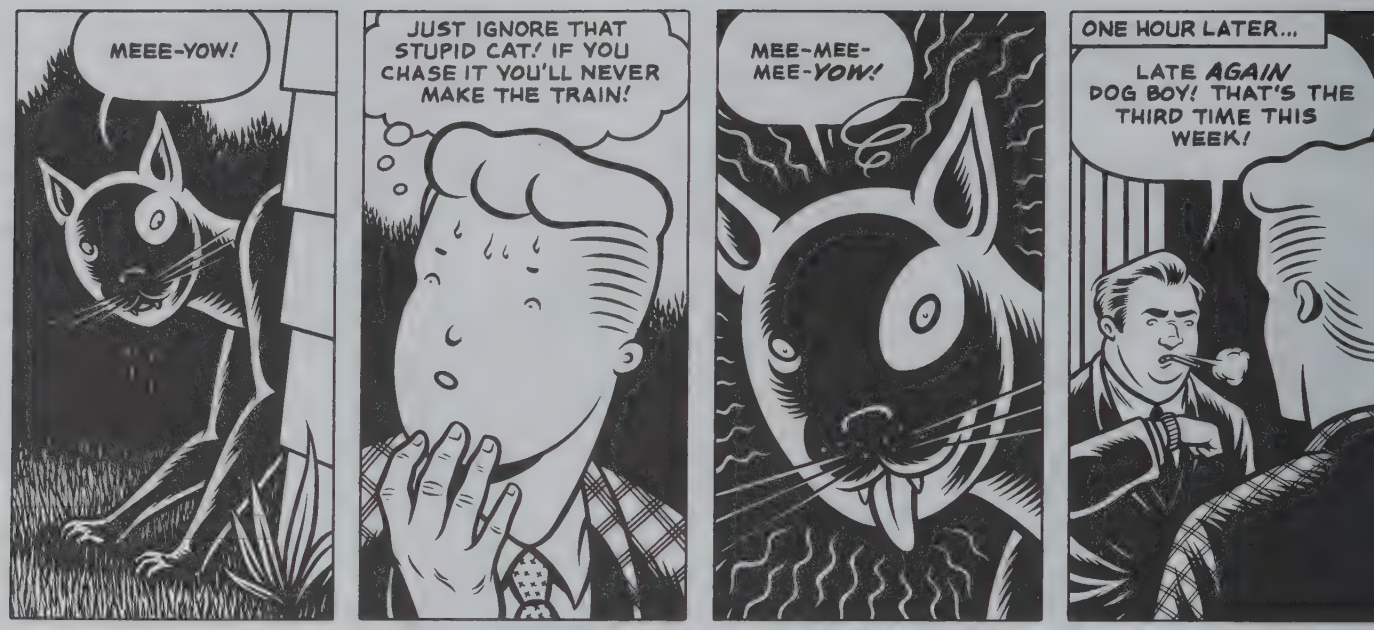

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
IT'S GETTING LATE...BETTER HEAD BACK HOME...
HOLY MOLEY! THAT GUY'S EATIN' A BONE!
OHHH! YUCKY!
AW, THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE MISSING!
JUST BECAUSE I LIKE A GOOD BONE NOW AND THEN THEY THINK I'M SOME KIND OF WEIRDO!
...BUT I'M NOT! I'M JUST A NORMAL AVERAGE GUY LIVING IN A NORMAL AVERAGE HOUSE...
GEE... ALL THAT DIGGING MADE ME TIRED...IT'S TIME FOR BED...
LATER...
IT'S NO USE, I CAN'T SLEEP...I KEEP THINKING ABOUT...ABOUT GIRLS!
HOW COME I CAN NEVER FIND A GIRL THAT REALLY UNDERSTANDS ME?
SOMEHOW I ALWAYS SEEM TO MAKE THE WRONG IMPRESSION...


MY LIFE WAS GOING ALONG JUST FINE UNTIL I WENT TO SEE THAT CREEPY DOCTOR...
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL YOU'RE IN EXCELLENT SHAPE EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...
YEAH? UH... WHAT'S THAT?
YOU'VE GOT A BAD HEART...
GEE...WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT, ANYWAY?
IN MEDICAL TERMS? WELL...IT'S...IT'S ALL MESSED UP... IT'S GOTTA BE YANKED!
THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS... THAT'S HOW MUCH THE DOCTOR TOLD ME A NEW HEART WOULD COST...
THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY...I BARELY GET BY AS IT IS!
READ ALL ABOUT IT! GIANT EYEBALLS SIGHTED!
DAILY B
EYEBALL FROM SP
HUH...MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK THE CLASSIFIED ADS...
IF I COULD ONLY FIND A BETTER PAYING JOB, THEN...HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THIS?
SURGERY
$9.95
ASK FOR "DOC" BENWAY
CUT RATE PRICES
579-4427
WHAT THE HECK... IT'S WORTH A TRY...

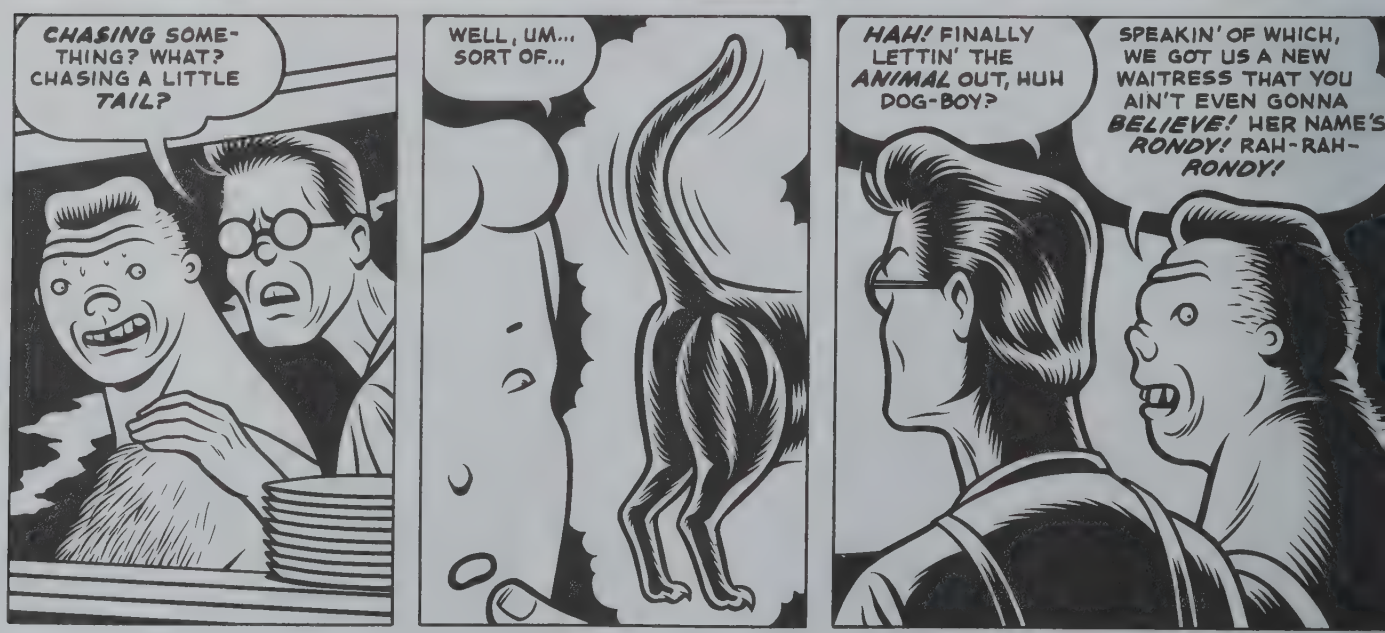

A FEW NIGHTS LATER I WENT TO SEE "DOC" BENWAY...
THAT'S FUNNY...IT'S THE RIGHT ADDRESS, BUT THIS SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A DOCTOR'S OFFICE...
219
OH, WELL... HERE GOES NOTHING...
21
NOK NOK
FREEZE! PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD! ONE FUNNY MOVE AND YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!
O.K. BOZO...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? WHERE'D YOU GET MY ADDRESS?
UH...UH...IN THE PAPER...I SAW AN AD FOR CUT RATE SURGERY...
SURGERY
SURGERY? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO? HEY, COME IN... WANNA DRINK OR SOMETHING?
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THERE WAS SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT "DOC" BENWAY... BUT I WAS DESPERATE!
YEAH, UMM...WE WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE PARTY... DONNA! GET THIS MAN A DRINK! NOW!
I DON'T MIND MIXING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST SIT BACK AND TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU...
YOU...YOU'RE REALLY A DOCTOR?
YOU BET YOUR SWEET ASS I AM! THE BEST IN THE WEST!


WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT? SOME FANCY SHMANCY OFFICE? A BUNCH OF WORTHLESS CREDENTIALS ON THE WALL?
HEY, MAN, I DON'T NEED ALL THAT CRAP! I'M A GODDAMN ARTIST, MAN! I GOTTA DO MY OWN THING! I GOTTA BE ME!
NOW COME ON, WADDA YOU WANT, HUH? I DON'T GOT ALL DAY!
A WEEK LATER, I WAS BEING WHEELED INTO SURGERY...
JUST RELAX, THIS IS GONNA WORK... I SWEAR TA GOD!
114-117
HEY... THEY'VE TRANSPLANTED APE HEARTS INTO HUMANS, RIGHT? SO WHY NOT A DOG HEART?
BESIDES... YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, DO YOU?
O.K. NURSE... GAS HIM!
BETTY
THAT NURSE... NURSE BETTY... SHE WAS A NICE GIRL... NICE...
ZZZZZ


LATER THAT NIGHT...
N-NO... NOOOO!
NO NEED TO WORRY, BUDDY... THE OPERATION WORKED OUT JUST FINE...NO LEFT OVER PARTS OR NOTHING!
THEN...THEN I'M O.K...BUT WHO ARE ALL THESE WEIRD PEOPLE?
WEIRD? WE'RE NOT WEIRD!
AND WHAT'S THIS FUZZY THING?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET UP AND FIND OUT, STUPID!
WAAAAH!
WAH! WAAAH! W-WHA? IT... IT WAS ONLY A BAD DREAM! UMMM... WHAT TIME IS IT?
AW, JEEZ! I FORGOT TO SET THE ALARM AGAIN! I'LL BE LATE FOR WORK!
IF I RUN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE SEVEN-FIFTEEN TRAIN!
MEYOW?
HUH?!


MEEE-YOW!
JUST IGNORE THAT STUPID CAT! IF YOU CHASE IT YOU'LL NEVER MAKE THE TRAIN!
MEE-MEE-MEE-YOW!
ONE HOUR LATER...
LATE AGAIN DOG BOY! THAT'S THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK!


HUSTLE YOUR ASS, DOG BOY! WE NEED THOSE DISHES FOR THE LUNCH RUSH!
YOU KEEP COMIN' IN LATE, YOU'RE GONNA GET CANNED! WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE THIS TIME?
I...I WAS BUSY CHASING SOMETHING...


CHASING SOMETHING? WHAT? CHASING A LITTLE TAIL?
WELL, UM... SORT OF...
HAH! FINALLY LETTIN' THE ANIMAL OUT, HUH DOG-BOY?
SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, WE GOT US A NEW WAITRESS THAT YOU AIN'T EVEN GONNA BELIEVE! HER NAME'S RONDY! RAH-RAH-RONDY!

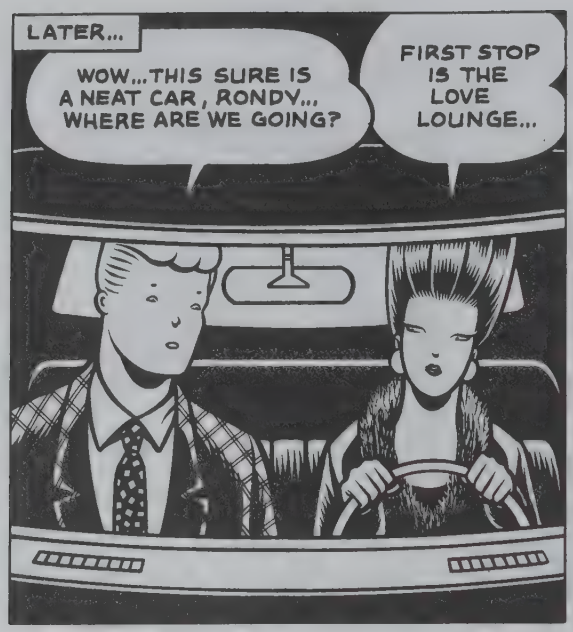

WHOOPS! HERE SHE COMES NOW! JEEZ...WHAT A DISH!
HEY, MAN...LOOK WHAT I GOT! LET'S HAVE A LITTLE FUN!
YEAH...LET'S INTRODUCE HER TO DOG BOY!
I NEED A CHEESE STEAK, HOLD THE MAYO AND A SIDE OF FRIES...
COMIN' RIGHT UP, BUT FIRST LEMME SHOW YOU SOMETHING WILD...
YO! DOG BOY! GET YOUR FACE OUT OF THOSE PLATES AND LOOK WHAT I GOT FOR YOU!
A BIG OLD HAMBONE! COME AND GET IT BOY!
COME ON GUYS, LEAVE ME ALONE... YOU'RE NOT VERY FUNNY.
HEY...DO I LOOK LIKE A COMEDIAN? NOW COME AND GET IT!
UHH...LEMME SEE THAT BONE FOR A SECOND...
NAHH...FIRST YOU GOTTA BEG FOR IT! GET DOWN AND BEG!
HOW'S THIS?
THAT'S A GOOD BOY... NOW SPEAK!
ARF! ARF!


HEH, HEH, HEH... BY THE WAY RONDY... WE'D LIKE YOU TO MEET DOG BOY...
DOG BOY, HUH? THAT'S KIND OF A CUTE NAME...
GEE, DOG BOY... YOU'RE REALLY WORKING ON THAT BONE... WHAT OTHER DOGGY TRICKS DO YOU HAVE UP YOUR SLEEVE?
?
SOME TIME WHEN YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY SNIFFING FIRE HYDRANTS WE COULD STEP OUT... HAVE A LITTLE FUN...
GULP... SURE.
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, DOG BOY!
UH, YEAH... O.K.
WOAAAH! SHE'S HOT TO TROT, DOG BOY! SHE WANTS YOUR ASS!
ARF! ARF!
AW, QUIT RAZZING ME, YOU GUYS... ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT IS DIRTY STUFF!
OH, GEE WHIZ... SO SORRY TO OFFEND YOU! HAH, HAH, HAH!
SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING DIRTY... SHE JUST WANTED TO BE FRIENDS... WHO KNOWS? MAYBE WE REALLY COULD GO OUT SOMETIME...
THE FIRST GIRL I EVER WENT OUT WITH WAS THAT NURSE ... NURSE BETTY...
HI THERE! HOW ARE WE TODAY?
NOW I KNOW YOU'RE A LITTLE CONFUSED, BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... YOUR OPERATION WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS!


I GUESS HAVING A HEART TRANSPLANT IS A PRETTY BIG DEAL, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY USE A DOG HEART, BUT GEE...I WAS FEELING GREAT IN NO TIME...
I WAS ALSO FEELING OTHER THINGS... WEIRD NEW SENSATIONS I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
MY, IT'S HOT IN HERE! LET ME PLUG IN THIS FAN FOR YOU...
?
AAAAAOOOOOO
WHA-? WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING? SETTLE DOWN BEFORE YOU BREAK YOUR STITCHES!
BETTY
ALRIGHT, I'LL SETTLE DOWN, IF YOU PROMISE ME ONE THING...
YES?
PROMISE ME YOU'LL GO OUT ON A DATE WITH ME WHEN I'M ALL BETTER...O.K.?
A FEW WEEKS LATER, I WAS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL...
UH...I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A DATE BEFORE, SO I'M NOT REAL SURE WHERE TO TAKE YOU...
...BUT I FIGURE WE CAN WALK AROUND A WHILE UNTIL WE FIND SOMEPLACE NICE...
HEY, THIS SURE LOOKS NEAT... LET'S GO IN!
S-SURE...
PUSSYCAT


THAT'LL BE TEN CLAMS, MAC...
CLAMS?
HERE, LET ME PAY...
JEEPERS...
I'M KINDA THIRSTY... SHOULD I GO GET US SOME SODAS?
O.K., BUT HURRY BACK...I THINK THE SHOW IS STARTING SOON...
HI, I'D LIKE TWO GRAPE SODAS, PLEASE.
ALL'S WE GOT IS BEER, JACK...
UH...FINE, MAKE IT TWO BEERS.
WHA-? THEY TURNED THE LIGHTS DOWN SO LOW I CAN'T SEE A THING! I'LL NEVER FIND BETTY!
WAIT A MINUTE... I'LL BET I CAN STILL FIND HER...
SNIF
SNIF
SNIF
SNIF


ALRIGHT, YOU SON OF UH BITCH... GET UP! YOU'RE GONNA WISH YOU WAS NEVER BORN...
?
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M GONNA CAVE THIS JERK'S HEAD IN... CAUGHT HIM SNIFFIN' MY GIRL'S BUTT...
...AND NOBODY SNIFFS MY GIRL'S BUTT EXCEPT ME!
ULP.
BOY, I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LOOK ON BETTY'S FACE...AFTER SHE HEARD WHAT HAPPENED, SHE JUST LET THAT GUY GO AHEAD AND BEAT ME UP...
HE SURE WAS A BIG, UGLY GUY... KINDA REMINDS ME OF...
HEY! DOG BOY! HOW'S IT HANGIN'? IT'S ALMOST QUITTIN' TIME, AND ME AND RUFUS GOT US A GREAT IDEA...
SEEMS THAT NEW WAITRESS HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU AND...UH... HOW 'BOUT YOU ASKIN' HER OUT AND WE'LL MAKE IT A THREESOME?
A FOUR-SOME!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
HI, RONDY...RUFUS AND DUFUS WERE JUST SAYING I SHOULD ASK YOU OUT ON A DATE...
A DATE, HUH? LAST TIME I WAS ON A DATE I WAS THIRTEEN YEARS OLD...BUT, UH...YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE, DOG BOY...
GO CHANGE YOUR DUDS AND YOU LET ME TAKE YOU OUT...I'LL SHOW YOU THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!
CAN WE GO TOO?


LATER...
WOW...THIS SURE IS A NEAT CAR, RONDY... WHERE ARE WE GOING?
FIRST STOP IS THE LOVE LOUNGE...


THE LOVE LOUNGE?
YEAH...IT'S TIME TO CUT LOOSE! WE GOTTA GET US SOME DRINKY WINKYS!


DRINKY WINKYS?


A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE "LOVE LOUNGE"...
HOWDY, KIDS! I WANT Y'ALL TO MEET DOG BOY!
HI, DOG BOY!
HI!
HEY FELLA!


WHAT CAN I GET YA, RONDY?
HI, RALPH... WE'LL START WITH TWO PINK FUZZIES...


MMM... A FUZZY DRINK... THAT SOUNDS GOOD!


TWO DRINKS LATER...
HEY, CHECK IT OUT! DOG BOY'S SHOWIN' EVERYONE HIS SCAR!
OOOHH, NEAT! CAN I TOUCH IT?


FOUR DRINKS LATER...
DOWN, BOY! DOWN!


SIX DRINKS LATER...
COME ON, DOG BOY! TRY IT AGAIN! JUMP! JUMP!


JEEZ, DOG BOY... YOU SHOULD COME HERE MORE OFTEN...YOU'RE LOADS OF FUN!
FUN? HEY! I KNOW WHAT'S FUN! WHERE'S RONDY?
RONDY! I JUST GOT A GREAT IDEA! THERE'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT, AND... AND...
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND? A LITTLE MOONLIGHT... A LITTLE ROMANCE?
HECK, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NEAT TO TAKE ALL THE KIDS OUTSIDE AND SHOW 'EM HOW TO HOWL!
WHY DON'T I TAKE YOU OUT AND SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO?
LATER...
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! WHAT A VIEW! GEE, IT'S REALLY SOMETHING! IT...IT... UH, YOU WANT SOMETHING RONDY?
MMM...YEAH, WHY DON'T YOU UNBUCKLE YOUR SEATBELT AND MOVE A LITTLE CLOSER... I WON'T BITE...
G-GULP.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOG BOY? DON'T YOU LIKE GIRLS?
I...I LIKE THEM JUST FINE, BUT... BUT I'M NOT REALLY SURE IF THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO...
OF COURSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO...YOUR DOGGY INSTINCT SHOULD TELL YOU THAT! COME ON, BIG FELLA... LET THE ANIMAL OUT!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M AFRAID OF DOING...I'M AFRAID I...I...


OH NO! IT'S THAT CAT AGAIN! J-JUST IGNORE IT!
MMM...YOU'RE REALLY SWEATING, DOG BOY...


IF I CHASE THAT CAT, RONDY WILL THINK I'M CRAZY! DON'T DO IT!
THAT'S IT... I LIKE GUYS WHO GROWL...
GRRRRRRA


ARF! ARF! ARF!


AN HOUR LATER...
THAT DARN CAT! I...I THINK I LOST HIM!


AW, GEE...I THINK I'M LOST! I'LL NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE CAR!


IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE ANYWAY...I'M SURE RONDY'S LONG GONE BY NOW...BOY, I REALLY MUFFED IT THIS TIME...


RONDY'S NICE...SHE'S DIFFERENT... SHE'S SEEN ME WHEN I GET A LITTLE, UM...UH... CARRIED AWAY, AND SHE STILL LIKES ME!


MOST GIRLS TREAT ME LIKE I'M A CRAZY PERSON OR SOMETHING!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? I'M JUST CHECKING!


THEY JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO HAVE FU
GO ON...JUST DRIVE YOUR CAR, AND I'LL CHASE IT FOR A FEW BLOCKS!

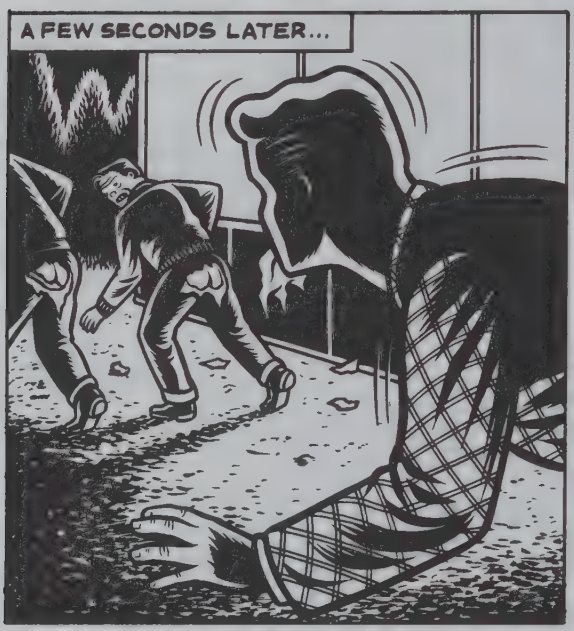

YEAH...THIS DOG HEART SURE GETS ME INTO TROUBLE...
DON'T EVEN LET HIM GET NEAR YOU...HE LICKS FACES!
EEEW!
IT GETS ME INTO BAD TROUBLE...
THAT'S HIM, OFFICER... HE TOLD ME HIS WHOLE BACK YARD WAS FILLED WITH BURIED BONES!
...AND I'M GONNA BE IN A WHOLE HEAP OF TROUBLE IF I DON'T FIND MY WAY OUT OF THESE WOODS...
WHAT TH-? UH-OH...
CRAK!
WACK!
WHEW! BACK TO CIVILIZATION...
LATER...
IF I JUST KEEP WALKING I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A... HEY! THERE'S A STORE UP AHEAD! AND...AND THAT LOOKS LIKE RONDY'S CAR!
STOP 'N' SHOP
IT IS! THERE'S RONDY!
HEY, FOX... WHERE YOU GOIN' SO FAST?
YEAH... LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD USE A LITTLE COMPANY...
GET LOST, YOU CREEPS!


COME ON, BABY...WE'LL SHOW YOU A GOOD TIME...
HANDS OFF, DORK FACE!


ARF! ARF! ARF!


HUH?
WHAT THE...?


EEEYAAA


A FEW SECONDS LATER...


MY HERO! I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GLAD I AM TO SEE YOU!


YOU-YOU'RE NOT MAD AT ME FOR CHASING THAT CAT?
OF COURSE NOT, SILLY! I'VE BEEN DRIVING ALL OVER LOOKING FOR YOU!


I JUST STOPPED HERE TO PICK UP A FEW THINGS, AND... AW, COME ON...LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!


LOOK...I BOUGHT YOU A LITTLE TREAT!
OH, BOY! DOGGY DOODLES! MY FAVORITE!
DOGGY DOODLES


WELL, DOG BOY... WHAT DO YOU SAY WE CALL IT A DAY?
CRUNCH... CRUNCH...
END


BURN AGAIN


IT'S MONDAY...
AW, JEEZ...I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR WORK AGAIN! I...I COULDN'T RESIST TIPPING OVER ALL THOSE TRASH CANS!
...AND THERE WAS A MIGHTY NICE BONE IN ONE OF THEM...
UH-OH... WHO'S THIS CREEPY LOOKING GUY?
REPENT... REPENT! THE FINAL DAYS ARE UPON US!
HERE, SINNER! BEG GOD FOR FORGIVENESS, FOR THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT IS AT HAND!
GULP... O.K.
?!
BURN BABY BURN
WOW! THIS THING IS REALLY SICK! WHAT KIND OF GUY WOULD BELIEVE ALL THIS STUFF?
BURN... YOU'RE GOING TO BURN!
HOURS LATER...
SINNERS! HEED THE WORD OF GOD! REPENT! REPENT!
MISTER BLISTER?
W-WHAT? OH... IT'S ONLY YOU... WHAT IS IT, RODNEY?
IT'S GETTING LATE... SHALL I DRIVE YOU HOME NOW, SIR?
UMM..,UH...YES, I GUESS I'VE PUT IN A FULL DAY.


RIGHT, ANOTHER DAY... HOW LONG CAN I KEEP THIS UP? I...I'M GOING NUTS!
LOOK AT ME! MY NERVES ARE SHOT! IF ONLY HE'D JUST... JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
HALF AN HOUR LATER...
WE'RE HOME, SIR.
GOOD EVENING, RUPERT... HOW DID THINGS GO TODAY?
EVERYTHING IS PROGRESSING QUITE SMOOTHLY, SIR...I HAVE A COMPLETE REPORT OF TODAY'S ACTIVITIES.
I'LL LOOK AT IT LATER... I'M TOO EXHAUSTED RIGHT NOW...
WILL YOU BE DINING THIS EVENING, SIR?
UH...NO FOOD.. JUST HAVE DR. FELDON PREPARE AN INJECTION FOR ME...I'LL BE IN MY STUDY.
LATER...
THERE...THAT'S BETTER...I FEEL HALFWAY HUMAN AGAIN...
HUH? W-WHAT'S THAT LIGHT COMING FROM MY BEDROOM?
OH, MY GOD!
YES?


COME IN, BLISS... IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE WE'VE HAD A CHAT... TELL ME, HOW ARE OUR PLANS PROGRESSING?
G-GULP... GREAT! JUST GREAT! I'VE BEEN PRINTING UP THE LITERATURE, SETTING UP A TELEVISION PROGRAM... EVERYTHING YOU TOLD ME TO DO!
FINE... THAT'S FINE, BLISS... JUST REMEMBER, THE END OF THE WORLD IS COMING RIGHT UP! IF YOU'RE GOOD, REALLY GOOD, I JUST MIGHT LET YOU LIVE...
BEFORE I GO, LET ME GIVE YOU THESE BLUEPRINTS...
BLUE-PRINTS?
...JUST ANOTHER PROJECT I WANT YOU TO GET STARTED ON... IMMEDIATELY!
YES, SIR!
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW, BLISS... JUST REMEMBER, I'LL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU!


AW, J-JESUS...


UHH... NOW WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK THESE BLUEPRINTS ARE FOR?


LOOKS LIKE PLANS FOR SOME SORT OF GIANT CHAIR... A THRONE OR SOMETHING...


A THRONE?! WHAT NEXT? WHERE IS ALL OF THIS LEADING TO? I JUST CAN'T KEEP UP WITH IT!


...BUT I DON'T DARE DISOBEY HIM... I-I DON'T WANT TO BURN!


HELLO, RUPERT? SEND UP ANOTHER INJECTION...

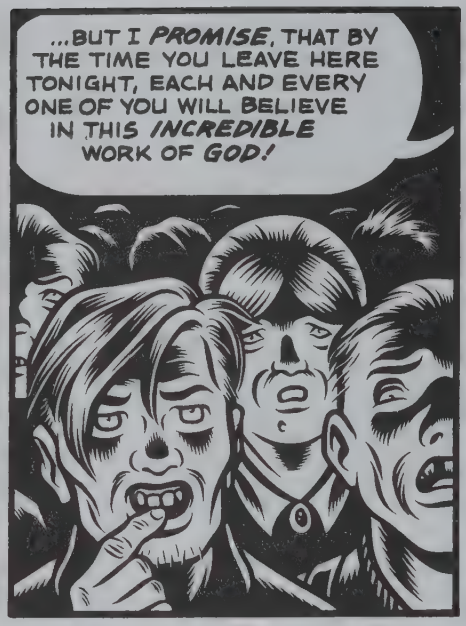

LATER...
THAT FACE... THAT AWFUL LEERING FACE...


I NEVER IMAGINED GOD WOULD LOOK SO... SCARY!


WHEN I WAS LITTLE I PICTURED HIM LOOKING LIKE SANTA CLAUS...ONLY A LOT MORE SERIOUS...

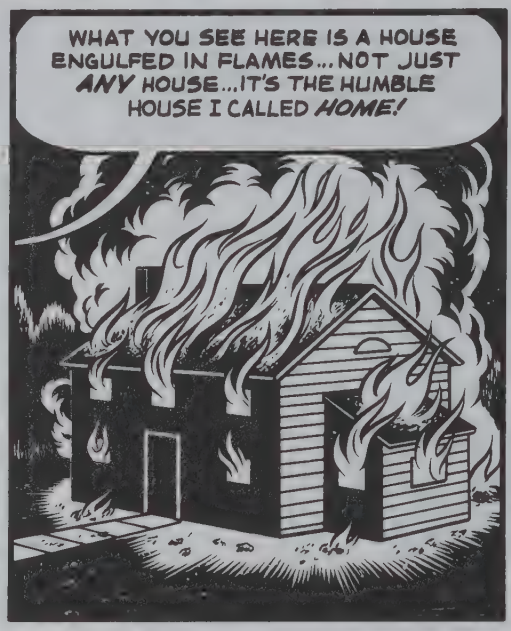

HUH... THE FACE OF GOD... AND I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE A PICTURE OF HIS SON ON MY CHEST!
WELL, NOT A PICTURE REALLY...A BURN...
A MIRACULOUS BURN!
YEAH... PERFECT! THEY'LL EAT IT UP!
SELL 'EM FOR TWO BITS A PIECE AFTER THE SHOW, AND WE'LL MAKE A BUNDLE!
NOW REMEMBER, SON... YOUR NEW NAME IS BLISS... BLISS BLISTER!
WHEN WE GET OUT ON STAGE, I JUST WANT YOU TO SMILE AND BE A GOOD LITTLE BOY... LET ME DO THE TALKING!
COME ON, SON... IT'S SHOW TIME!
GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! MAY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU!
I WANT YOU ALL TO MEET MY SON BLISS! WE'RE HERE TONIGHT TO TESTIFY TO A MODERN DAY MIRACLE!

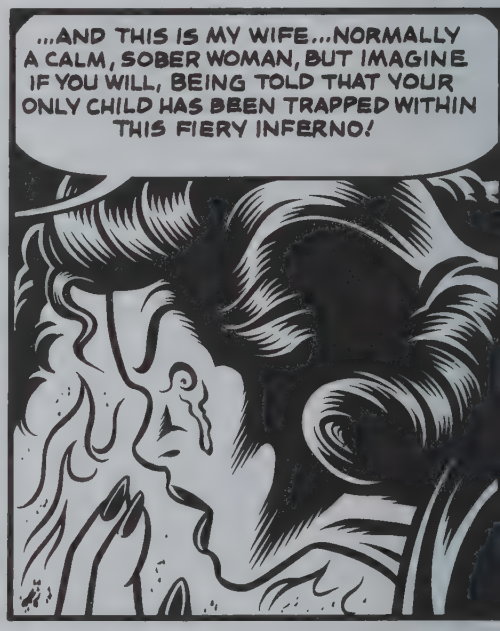

NOW, THE WHOLE NOTION OF A MIRACLE IN THIS DAY AND AGE MAY SEEM A LITTLE FAR-FETCHED TO SOME OF YOU FOLKS...

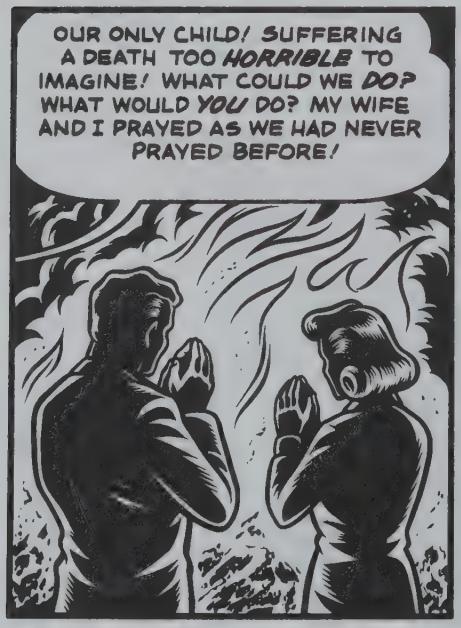

...BUT I PROMISE, THAT BY THE TIME YOU LEAVE HERE TONIGHT, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WILL BELIEVE IN THIS INCREDIBLE WORK OF GOD!


HOW AM I GOING TO DO THAT? BY OFFERING PROOF! PROOF IN THE FORM OF A MOVING PICTURE!

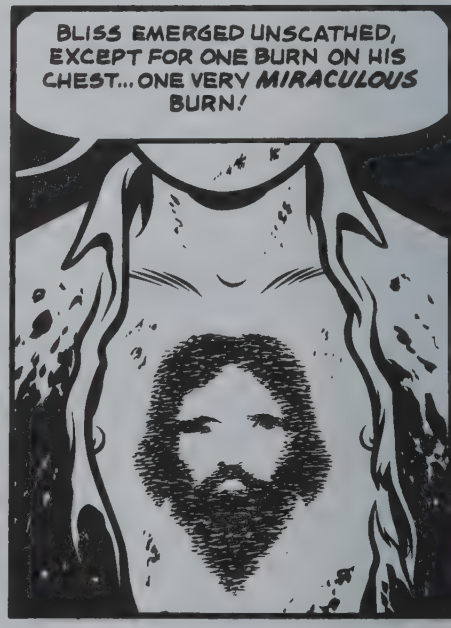

WATCH THE SCREEN BEHIND ME AND LISTEN CLOSELY AS I DESCRIBE FOR YOU THE FATEFUL EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE LESS THAN THREE MONTHS AGO!


WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS A HOUSE ENGULFED IN FLAMES... NOT JUST ANY HOUSE... IT'S THE HUMBLE HOUSE I CALLED HOME!


...AND THIS IS MY WIFE... NORMALLY A CALM, SOBER WOMAN, BUT IMAGINE IF YOU WILL, BEING TOLD THAT YOUR ONLY CHILD HAS BEEN TRAPPED WITHIN THIS FIERY INFERNO!


OUR ONLY CHILD! SUFFERING A DEATH TOO HORRIBLE TO IMAGINE! WHAT COULD WE DO? WHAT WOULD YOU DO? MY WIFE AND I PRAYED AS WE HAD NEVER PRAYED BEFORE!


...AND IN THE SMOLDERING AFTERMATH WE DISCOVERED OUR PRAYERS HAD BEEN ANSWERED! BY DIVINE INTERVENTION OUR SON HAD SURVIVED THE SMOKE AND THE FLAMES...


BLISS EMERGED UNSCATHED, EXCEPT FOR ONE BURN ON HIS CHEST... ONE VERY MIRACULOUS BURN!


THERE YOU HAVE IT! YOU'VE JUST WITNESSED THE HAND OF GOD AT WORK! BUT WAIT! THE MIRACLE DOESN'T END THERE!
YOU! YES, YOU! COULD YOU PLEASE COME UP TO THE STAGE?
NOW, TELL ME, SIR... HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN REQUIRED TO USE THESE CRUTCHES?
WELL, UH... EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY...
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF I TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULD WALK OFF THIS STAGE TONIGHT ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET?
T-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I'VE BEEN TO ALL SORTS OF DOCTORS AND NONE OF 'EM COULD HELP ME!
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD! BLISS, I WANT YOU TO UNBUTTON YOUR SHIRT AND LET THIS MAN TOUCH YOUR CHEST!
Y-YES, DAD...
HEY! I...I FEEL KIND OF FUNNY! SORTA TINGLY ALL OVER!
MY LEGS...THEY FEEL STRONG! I...I CAN WALK! IT'S A MIRACLE!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
HOW...HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?
DON'T THANK ME, THANK GOD! PRAISE THE LORD!


DAD SURE KNEW HOW TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW... THOSE POOR FOOLS JUST ATE IT UP...


...AND THE MONEY JUST ROLLED IN... BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS WENT FOR A QUARTER AND A SPECIAL HAND TINTED VERSION WENT FOR FIFTY CENTS...


...AND ANYONE WHO COUGHED UP A DOLLAR COULD TOUCH MY CHEST...


IT WAS PRETTY EXCITING AT FIRST... MOVING FROM TOWN TO TOWN, ALWAYS BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION...
HEY, LOOK! IT'S THAT KID I READ ABOUT IN THE PAPERS!
BLISS BLISTER

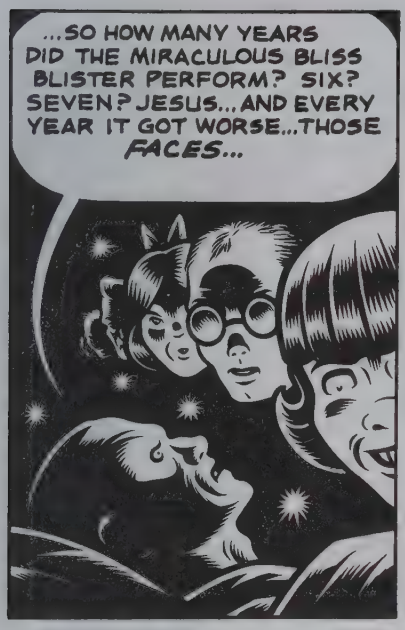

...AND SOMEHOW I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT I ACTUALLY HAD THE POWER TO HEAL...
AHHH... BLESS YOU... BLESS YOU!


THEN ONE DAY, I STUMBLED ONTO THE TRUTH...
THANKS A LOT, MACK! YOU MAKE A GREAT CRIPPLE!


THE MAGIC AND EXCITEMENT DISAPPEARED... I BEGAN TO REALIZE WHAT I REALLY WAS... A FREAK!


A FREAK WHO WAS BEING ROBBED OF A NORMAL CHILDHOOD...
C-CAN WE TOUCH YOU? PLEASE?


A FREAK WHO WAS BEING USED TO ROB IGNORANT AND HOPELESS PEOPLE OF THEIR HARD EARNED CASH...
UH, GUH... GUH-GUH... GAAAAAH!


...SO HOW MANY YEARS DID THE MIRACULOUS BLISS BLISTER PERFORM? SIX? SEVEN? JESUS... AND EVERY YEAR IT GOT WORSE...THOSE FACES...


YELLOW EYES...THE SMELL OF URINE AND SWEAT AND CHEAP BOOZE...SKIN THE COLOR OF ROTTEN MEAT...


FACES NUMB WITH PAIN... BEYOND PAIN...BEYOND REDEMPTION...SINKING FAST AND CLUTCHING AT ANYTHING!


FINALLY, THE DAY CAME WHEN I JUST COULDN'T STOMACH IT ANY LONGER... I MADE AN OATH TO MYSELF THAT I WOULD NEVER, NEVER FEED OFF OF HUMAN MISERY THE WAY MY FATHER HAD!


...SO SHORTLY AFTER MY SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY, I JUST TURNED MY BACK ON IT ALL AND RAN!


I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FIRM PLANS...I JUST WANTED TO GET AWAY...TO GET LOST!
WHERE YOU HEADIN', KID?
UH... WEST.


...BUT GETTING LOST WAS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT...I WAS A CELEBRITY...
SAY... AIN'T YOU THAT PREACHER KID? I READ ABOUT YOU INNA PAPERS! YOUR MA AND PA ARE LOOKIN' FOR YOU!


IN ORDER TO SHED MY PAST, I HAD TO UNDERGO A TRANSFORMATION...

A MONTH AND A HALF LATER, I HAD TRAVELED AS FAR AS MY SMALL SAVINGS WOULD CARRY ME...



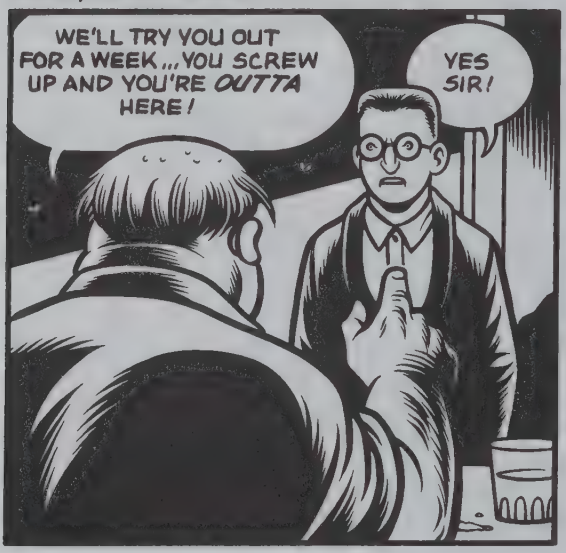
WITH MY LAST DOLLAR I BOUGHT A BAG OF HAMBURGERS AND A NEWSPAPER...



...AND STARTED LOOKING FOR A JOB. *ANY* JOB...



BACK THEN, JOBS WERE HARD TO COME BY, BUT AFTER A FEW DAYS OF POUNDING THE PAVEMENT, I FOUND ONE...



THE DAYS WERE LONG AND THE PAY WAS LOW... I DIDN'T MIND... I JUST WANTED A QUIET, SIMPLE LIFE.



I DIDN'T ATTEMPT TO MAKE FRIENDS. I WAS CONTENT TO RETURN TO MY FURNISHED ROOM AFTER WORK AND ENTERTAIN MYSELF...



THE DAYS TURNED INTO MONTHS, THE MONTHS INTO YEARS... I HAD FOUND MY PLACE IN THE WORLD... I WAS AT PEACE WITH MYSELF...



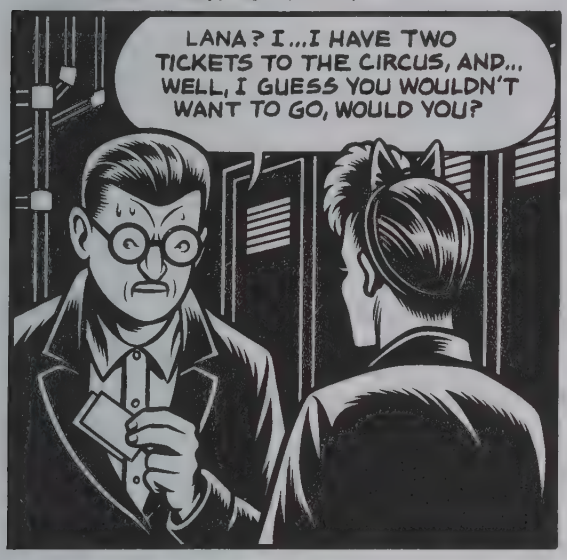
...UNTIL *LANA* ENTERED MY LIFE... SHE WAS A NEW GIRL WHO HAD JUST BEEN HIRED...



...AND SHE WAS *INCREDIBLE!*



AFTER LEADING A SECLUDED LIFE FOR SO MANY YEARS, I REALIZED I DIDN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT DATING GIRLS...



...BUT LANA WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY, AND HELPED ME THROUGH THE THOSE FIRST AWKWARD MOMENTS...



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I WAS HOPELESSLY IN LOVE...

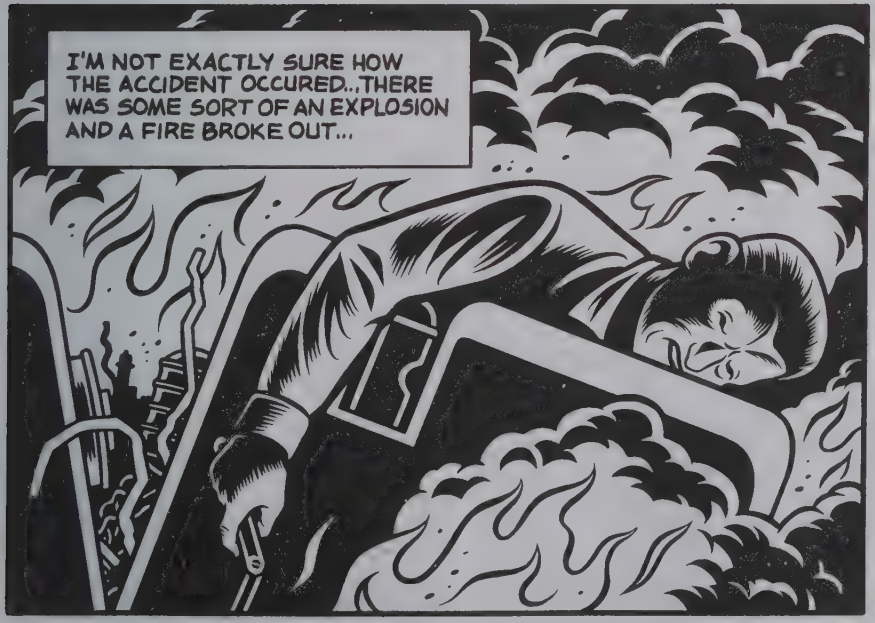


I LOST INTEREST IN MY JOB...I FOUND IT HARD TO CONCENTRATE...









LATER ON I FOUND OUT IT WAS LANA WHO PULLED ME FROM THE FLAMES...



WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL, I FELT STRANGE...LIKE I WAS FLOATING OUTSIDE OF MY BODY IN A DREAMY FARAWAY LAND...



...AND FLOATING IN FRONT OF ME WAS LANA'S BEAUTIFUL FACE...SHE WAS A *VISION* OF BEAUTY... AN ANGEL...



I SNAPPED OUT OF IT WHEN THE ANGEL OPENED HER MOUTH...



WHEN I LOOKED INTO HER COOL, GREY EYES, I KNEW IT WAS ALL OVER...



...THE QUIET, ANONYMOUS LIFE I HAD ENJOYED FOR SO MANY YEARS WAS THROUGH!





LANA DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME...WE GOT MARRIED THREE DAYS LATER...



WE MOVED INTO A HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN AND STARTED MAKING PLANS...



THAT IS, *LANA* STARTED MAKING PLANS




YEAH... LANA... CHRIST, SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL! I WAS BLINDED BY HER BEAUTY... BUT HER EYESIGHT WAS PERFECT! SHE KNEW A GOOD THING WHEN SHE SAW IT!
I SAW YOU HEAL THOSE PEOPLE! THEY'D TOUCH YOUR CHEST AND BE CURED!
BUT THAT WAS JUST A BIG SHOW MY FATHER PUT ON!
HE'D HIRE ACTORS TO POSE AS CRIPPLES, AND THEN GET THEM UP ON STAGE SO I COULD "HEAL" THEM!
SAY, THAT... THAT'S AN INTERESTING IDEA!
IT WAS THAT INTERESTING IDEA THAT REALLY STARTED THE GEARS TURNING IN LANA'S HEAD. A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE CROWDS WERE WRAPPED AROUND THE BLOCK TO SEE THE RETURN OF THE MIRACULOUS BLISS BLISTER!
BLISTER
THE DARK, UGLY MEMORIES OF MY CHILDHOOD LOOMED IN FRONT OF ME, BUT I IGNORED THEM...
YOU'RE DUE ON STAGE IN FIVE MINUTES, DARLING...
I WOULD HAVE IGNORED ANYTHING FOR LANA'S LOVE...
GEE, LANA... I... I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD...
OH, YOU POOR DEAR! I ALMOST FORGOT YOUR INJECTION!
WHAT EVER YOU DO... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, PROMISE YOU WON'T STOP LOVING ME...
DON'T BE SILLY! OF COURSE I WON'T! NOW HURRY! THE SHOW'S STARTING!

IT WAS SO EASY...IN NO TIME AT ALL, WE WERE MAKING THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS...



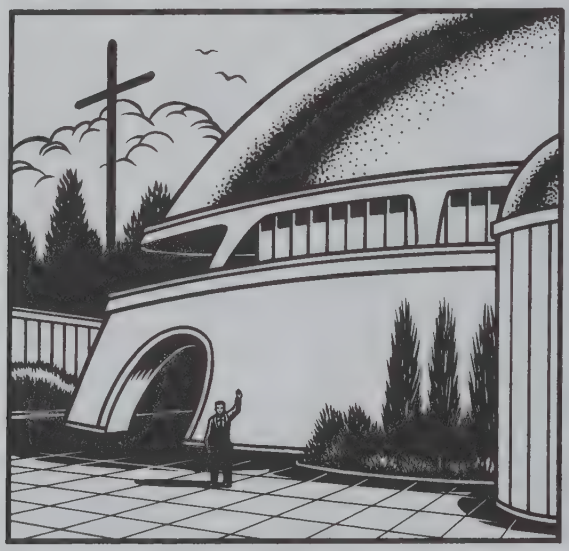
WE BRANCHED OUT...WE CREATED A WHOLE LINE OF BOOKS AND MERCHANDISE...



...BUT I THINK IT WAS OUR T.V. SHOW THAT PUT US OVER THE TOP...



YEARS PASSED, AND THE BLISS BLISTER EMPIRE GREW BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS...WE BUILT A CHURCH THAT WOULD SEAT 5,000 PEOPLE...



WE BUILT A SCHOOL FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES...



...AND BECAUSE OF THE INCREDIBLE SUCCESS OF OUR TELEVISION SHOW, WE BUILT OUR OWN STUDIO...

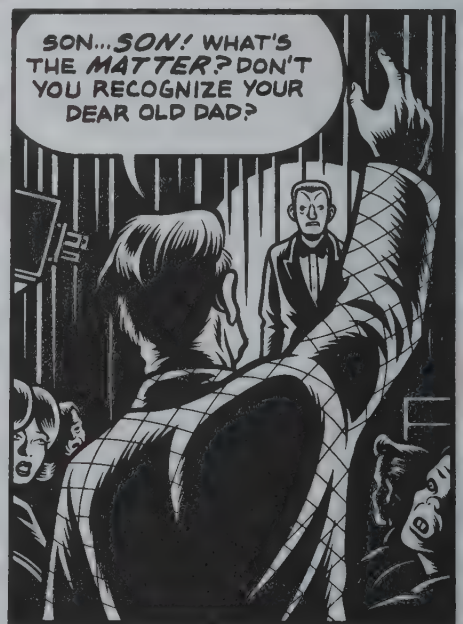


AS WE GOT MORE PROFESSIONAL, WE STARTED SCREENING THE MEMBERS OF OUR T.V. AUDIENCE TO WEED OUT UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS...



ONE DAY SOMEONE I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO SEE SLIPPED THROUGH...






DEAR OLD DAD...HE WAS A LITTLE WORSE FOR THE WEAR AND TEAR, BUT HE STILL HAD THAT SAME COLD FIRE BURNING IN HIS EYES...
WE NEED TO TALK, SON!
...AND HE WAS STILL A SHOWMAN... HE KNEW HOW TO LAY IT ON THICK!
...SO WHEN YOUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY, GOD BLESS HER, I...I LOST MY WILL TO LIVE...
AFTER HIS SOB STORY, HE GOT DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS...
LOOK, SON...YOU'VE GOT A GREAT LITTLE RACKET...UH, I MEAN MINISTRY GOING HERE, BUT WITH MY HELP WE CAN MAKE IT EVEN BETTER!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP! LANA AND I ARE PERFECTLY HAPPY WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE!
IF YOU NEED MONEY, I'LL GIVE YOU MONEY, BUT...
WAIT, BLISS...LET'S HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY, FIRST...
...AFTER ALL... HE IS YOUR FATHER...
NO! NO! I WON'T TOLERATE HIS PRESENCE ANOTHER MOMENT! GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
BLISS! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? COME HERE, DARLING...
YOU'RE TREMBLING ALL OVER, SWEETHEART... LET ME CALL DOWN FOR AN INJECTION...
LANA'S SOFT VOICE AND A SOOTHING INJECTION WAS ALL IT TOOK TO PUT ME BACK IN MY PLACE...
IT'S ALRIGHT, LANA...GO AHEAD AND TALK TO DAD IF YOU WANT TO...I...I'M TIRED.


LANA AND DAD REALLY HIT IT OFF...
TAKE A LOOK, LANA...I JUST GOT THESE NEW PLANS DRAWN UP... THIS IS GOING TO WORK! I JUST KNOW IT!
THEY STARTED WORKING ON A PROJECT TOGETHER...LANA MADE A BIG JOKE ABOUT KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM ME...
YOU HAVE OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT...YOU HAVE YOUR FLOCK TO TEND TO!
IT TOOK OVER FIVE YEARS TO COMPLETE...ONE PAY I WAS FINALLY ALLOWED TO GO TO THE WORK SITE...
OH, BLISS! I'M SO EXCITED! WAIT TILL YOU SEE IT!
WHEN I SAW THE THING, I WAS SPEECHLESS...IT LOOKED LIKE THE PRODUCT OF A DISEASED MIND...LIKE A MAD, TWISTED VERSION OF DISNEYLAND...
WELL, BLISS... WHAT DO YOU THINK? READY FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF GOD'S LI'L ACRE?



I WAS IN A DAZE...I LET LANA LEAD ME THROUGH...



THE FURTHER WE WENT, THE STRANGER IT GOT...



...AND THEN WE WENT TO HELL.

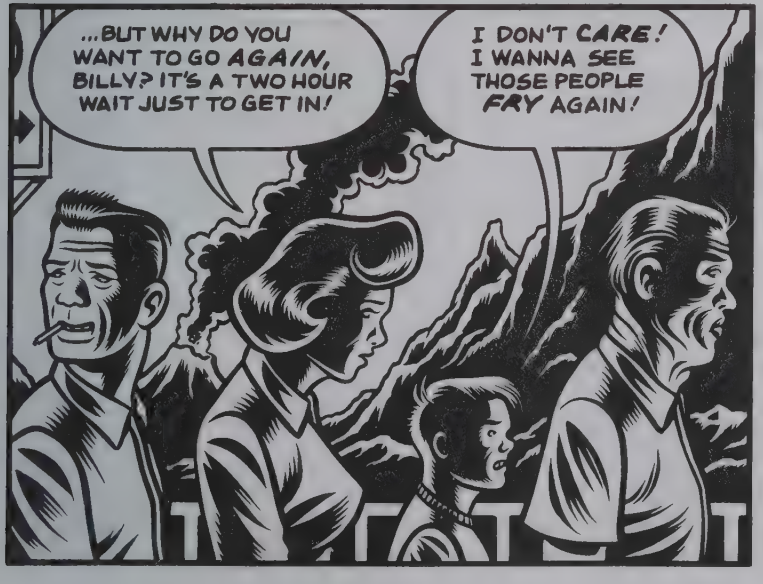




I GUESS IT WAS THE SEA OF FIRE THAT FINALLY DID ME IN...



GOD'S LI'L ACRE...THE GRAND OPENING WAS TWO WEEKS LATER.. MUCH TO MY ASTONISHMENT IT WAS AN INSTANT SUCCESS.



OF COURSE IT WASN'T REALLY MY SUCCESS...I WAS JUST A PUPPET...A FIGUREHEAD.



DAD *WAS* PRETTY SMART, AND HE WAS *ENJOYING* HIS SUCCESS...HE GOT NEW TEETH AND A NEW TOUPEE... DAD WAS LOOKING MIGHTY DAPPER.

...AND LANA WAS STILL AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER... SHE HAD FILLED OUT A BIT, BUT SHE CARRIED IT WELL...

I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS A WRECK... I LOOKED LIKE AN OLD MAN...I LOOKED OLDER THAN MY OWN *FATHER*.





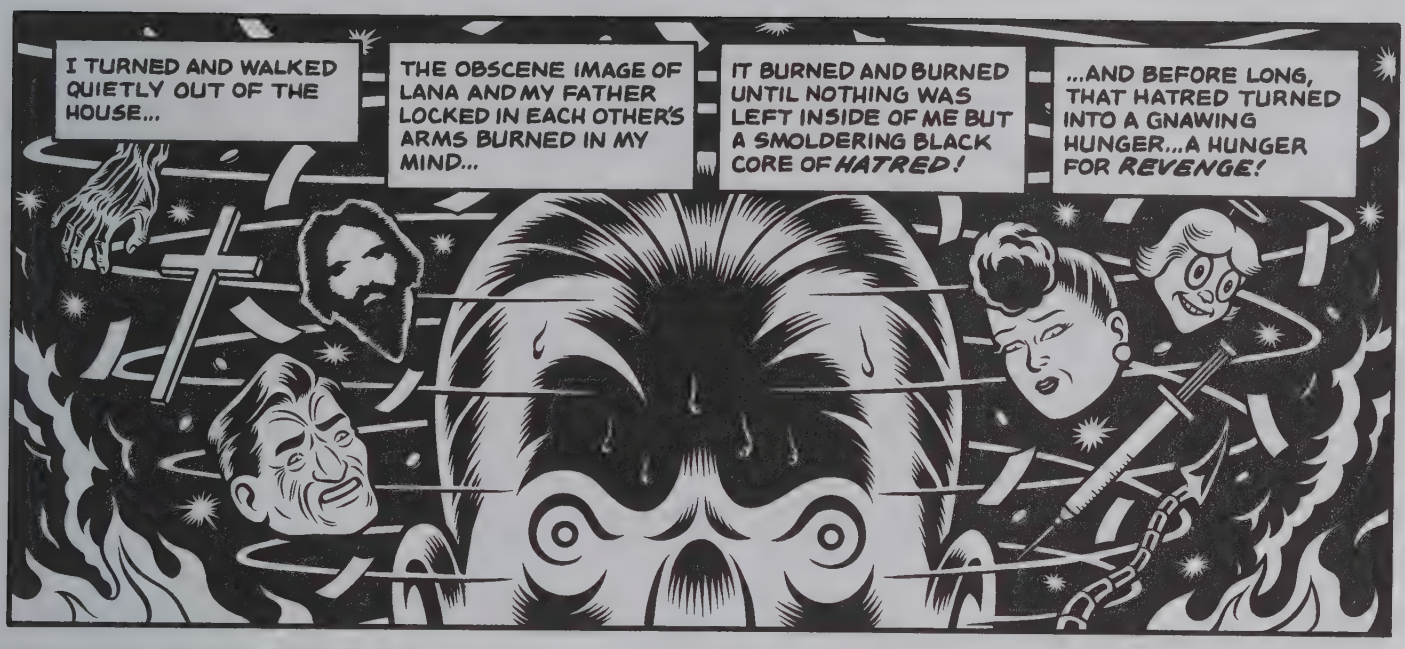











I TURNED AND WALKED QUIETLY OUT OF THE HOUSE...
THE OBSCENE IMAGE OF LANA AND MY FATHER LOCKED IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS BURNED IN MY MIND...
IT BURNED AND BURNED UNTIL NOTHING WAS LEFT INSIDE OF ME BUT A SMOLDERING BLACK CORE OF *HATRED!*
...AND BEFORE LONG, THAT HATRED TURNED INTO A GNAWING HUNGER...A HUNGER FOR *REVENGE!*


ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATER, I TOOK LANA AND MY FATHER OUT TO THE BEST RESTAURANT IN TOWN...
WAITER! WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON CHAMPAGNE! BRING ANOTHER BOTTLE!
YES, *SIR!*


HAVE SOME MORE, LANA... COME ON, DRINK UP!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU BLISS? THIS IS SO UNLIKE YOU... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

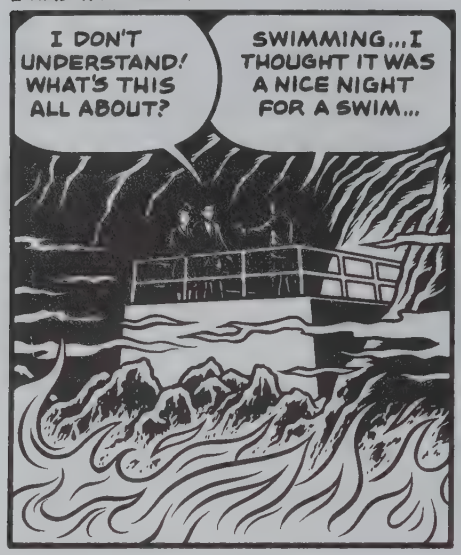

DON'T WORRY, DARLING...YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH...


BY THE TIME WE LEFT THE RESTAURANT, WE WERE ALL A LITTLE BIT DRUNK... ESPECIALLY LANA.
WHOOO-BOY! I THINK THAT LAST DRINK WENT TO MY *HEAD!* TAKE US *HOME* BLISS!


IT TOOK THEM A WHILE TO REALIZE I HAD ANOTHER DESTINATION IN MIND...
HEY! WE'RE GOIN' THE WRONG WAY!
Y-YEAH! WHERE THE HECK ARE WE GOING?


GOD'S LI'L ACRE!
GET OUT! AND KEEP YOUR TRAPS *SHUT!*

WE TOOK A WALK TO THE SEA OF FIRE... IT WAS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR WHAT I HAD IN MIND...







I WAS IN A DAZE...MY FATHER'S BROKEN BODY LAY SPRAWLED IN FRONT OF ME... THERE WAS BLOOD...BLOOD *EVERYWHERE*... AND SCREAMING...



I TURNED TOWARDS THE SCREAMING AND FOUND MYSELF STARING INTO LANA'S FACE...I COULD SEE THE REFLECTION OF FLAMES DANCING DEEP INSIDE OF HER EYES...



AS I FIRED MY GUN, HER EYES CLOUDED OVER AND FILLED WITH TEAR THE FLAMES WERE EXTINGUISHED...



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? I MANAGED TO PUSH THE BODIES OVER THE LEDGE AND INTO THE SEA OF FIRE...



...AND SPENT THE NEXT HOUR CLEANING UP THE EVIDENCE OF MY HORRIBLE CRIME...



WHEN I WAS FINISHED, I FELT EXHAUSTED... AS I SAT BACK TO CATCH MY BREATH, I NOTICED A STRANGE LIGHT MATERIALIZING ABOVE THE FLAMES...



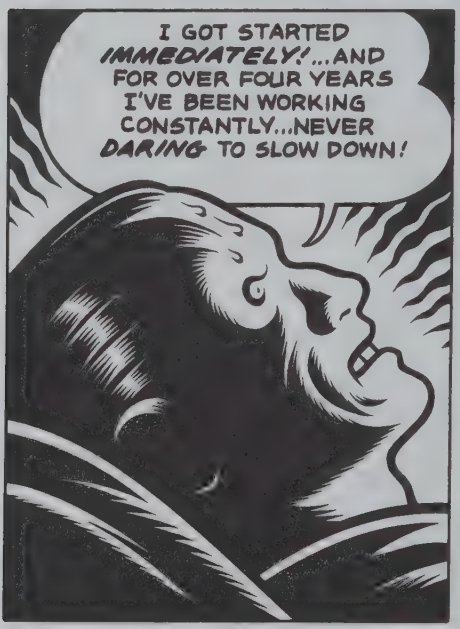

BEFORE I COULD GATHER MY SENSES, I WAS STANDING FACE TO FACE WITH GOD!
AW, JEEZ...I...I KNEW I WOULDN'T GET AWAY WITH IT...
MY, MY, BLISS... WE'VE BEEN A VERY NAUGHTY BOY, HAVEN'T WE?
O.K...ALRIGHT! I DID IT! I MURDERED THEM! SO KILL ME ALREADY! JUST PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY!
NOT SO FAST, BLISS...YOU MAY HAVE SINNED IN THE EYES OF GOD, BUT REMEMBER, GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS... AND I'VE GOT PLANS FOR YOU!
GOD HAD PLANS FOR ME, ALRIGHT... PLANS FOR A PROJECT SO ENORMOUS THAT GOD'S LI'L ACRE LOOKED PUNY BY COMPARISON...
GOD TALKED FOR HOURS, CAREFULLY OUTLINING EVERY DETAIL...
...AND OF COURSE I'LL HAVE TO GET YOU BLUEPRINTS FOR ALL OF THIS...
WAIT! WHAT IF I REFUSE? YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME WITH DEATH! I DON'T CARE IF I LIVE OR DIE!
NOW, NOW, BLISS...DEATH ISN'T ALL THAT SIMPLE... IF YOU REFUSE, YOU'LL HAVE TO BURN IN HELL FOR ALL ETERNITY...


SO...UH... THERE REALLY *IS* A HELL?


OH, *YES!* AND YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT AT *ALL!* IT'S SORT OF LIKE BEING DROPPED INTO A BED OF MOLTEN LAVA...


...ONLY A LOT, *LOT* HOTTER!


I SEE... WHEN DO I GET STARTED?


I GOT STARTED *IMMEDIATELY!*...AND FOR OVER FOUR YEARS I'VE BEEN WORKING CONSTANTLY...NEVER *DARING* TO SLOW DOWN!


...BECAUSE THE FINAL DAYS ARE UPON US, AND *HE'S* WATCHING EVERY MOVE I MAKE!


...AND ONLY *HE* CAN SAVE ME FROM THE TORMENTS OF *HELL!*




RING!
W-WHAT? WHAT *IS* IT?


YOUR WAKE-UP CALL, SIR! WE HAVE A BUSY DAY AHEAD OF US!


BUT I JUST...NEVER MIND, RUPERT...I'LL BE DOWN IN A MOMENT.


HMMM...HE'S BEEN UP ALL NIGHT AGAIN...I'D BETTER INFORM DR. FELDON...
...BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST...
HELLO, RODNEY? I WANT YOU TO BRING THE CAR AROUND IN TWENTY MINUTES...
MR. BLISTER NEEDS TO BE AT THE TELEVISION STUDIO BY TEN O'CLOCK.
YES, SIR!
MEANWHILE...
BZZZZ!
YES? WHAT IS IT?
AGENT RAYMOND REPORTING, SIR.
FINE, PUT HIM ON.
WORD JUST CAME DOWN THAT BLISTER IS GOING TO THE T.V. STUDIO THIS MORNING...
THERE'S BEEN TALK ABOUT A NATIONAL BROADCAST HE'S PLANNING...THIS MUST BE IT.
...AND AFTER HIS TELEVISION SHOW I'M SCHEDULED TO DRIVE HIM OUT TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITE...
GOOD...I WANT YOU TO KEEP CLOSE TABS ON HIM...THAT LUNATIC IS A THREAT TO THE ENTIRE CIVILIZED WORLD!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, CHIEF!
TRY TO GET SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE THIS TIME...
...AND RAYMOND? DON'T CALL ME CHIEF!


LATER...
YOU'RE ON IN THIRTY SECONDS, MR. BLISTER...
GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... I'M HERE TODAY WITH A VERY SPECIAL MESSAGE... A MESSAGE DIRECTLY FROM GOD!
YOU ARE ALL DOOMED! IN EXACTLY SIX MONTHS, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WILL BE DESTROYED!
AM I MAKING MYSELF CLEAR? YOU ARE ALL GOING TO DIE!
DIE! DIE! DIE!
YOU ARE GOING TO SUFFER A DEATH TOO HORRIBLE... TOO AGONIZING TO IMAGINE!
UNLESS... UNLESS YOU LISTEN TO ME VERY, VERY CAREFULLY...
NOW, THEN... I KNOW SOME OF YOU ARE SITTING OUT THERE THINKING TO YOURSELVES...
"THE END OF THE WORLD? HA! I GUESS OLD BLISS BLISTER HAS FINALLY FLIPPED HIS LID!"
-BUT HEAR ME BROTHERS AND SISTERS!.. IF I'M CRAZY, THEN GOD IS CRAZY!
...AND YOU'D BETTER GET CRAZY IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US IN HEAVEN!
BTV


DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD! NOW I WANT YOU TO SIT QUIETLY FOR THE NEXT HOUR AND LISTEN CAREFULLY TO EVERY WORD I SAY...
-BECAUSE GOD SENT ME HERE TONIGHT TO SELL YOU A TICKET!
A ONE WAY TICKET TO ETERNITY!
TWO HOURS LATER...
BOY, THAT WAS SOME SHOW YOU PUT ON, MR. BLISTER...
FOR A WHILE THERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO TURN ME INTO A TRUE BELIEVER!
SHUT UP, RODNEY... JUST SHUT UP AND DRIVE...
TWO MORE HOURS LATER...
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, MR. BLISTER...
...WE JUST HAVE TO CHECK IN AT THE GATE...
RODNEY RAYMOND WITH BLISS BLISTER...
FINE...GO RIGHT ON THROUGH!


MR. BLISTER? HI! TED JURGENS...WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK? WE'VE BEEN WORKING 'ROUND THE CLOCK!
YES, YES... UH... VERY IMPRESSIVE...


YUP, IT'S A REAL BEAUTY...EVERYTHING'S DONE EXCEPT FOR A LITTLE WORK ON THE INTERIOR...
NO, IT'S NOT QUITE DONE ...GOD GAVE ME SOME MORE BLUEPRINTS LAST NIGHT FOR...FOR... HERE, TAKE A LOOK!
WHEW! THAT'S A MIGHTY BIG CHAIR! ACCORDING TO THESE PLANS, IT SHOULD FIT PERFECTLY ON THAT PLATFORM IN THE MAIN LOBBY...
IT'S GOT TO FIT PERFECTLY! EVERYTHING'S GOT TO FIT PERFECTLY! THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE!
I...I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO MAKE HIM MAD!
...BECAUSE... 'CAUSE...
SAY, YOU DON'T LOOK VERY WELL... ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
G-G- GACK!
HUH? W-WHERE AM I?
...AND WHERE'S THAT LIGHT COMING FROM?
IT'S STRANGE... I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...
OH, MY GOD!


NO, IT'S JUST US, SON...
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, BLISS...
NO! NO! NO!
NO!
HEY, DOC! GET THE NEEDLE! HE'S COMING OUT OF IT!
EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT, MR. BLISTER... I'M JUST GOING TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO CALM YOU DOWN...
BUT... W-WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE SAFE INSIDE THE COMPOUND, SIR.
APPARENTLY YOU SUFFERED A MILD SEIZURE... YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING FOR OVER TWO DAYS...
TWO DAYS!
BUT I'VE GOT WORK TO DO! I HAVE TO HAND OUT PAMPLETS! I'VE GOT TO SPREAD THE WORD!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. BLISTER... THE DOCTOR HAS ORDERED YOU TO STAY IN BED... BESIDES, YOUR WORK IS DONE!
THE TELEVISION SHOW YOU TAPED IS GOING TO BE BROADCAST TONIGHT ON PRIME TIME... YOUR MESSAGE WILL GO OUT TO MILLIONS!


LATER THAT EVENING...
...SO REMEMBER THE DATE, MY FRIENDS... JUNE FIRST!
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CHOOSE TO JOIN US, IT WILL BE A DAY OF JOYOUS CELEBRATION...
...IT WILL BE THE DAY WE MEET OUR MOST MERCIFUL MASTER!
...AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT HEED MY WORDS, IT WILL SIMPLY BE... THE END!
WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT, GENTLEMEN...
JEEZ, THAT GUY SOUNDS LIKE A REAL NUT CASE, CHIEF!
MAYBE SO, BUT WE THINK PART OF WHAT HE'S SAYING MAY BE TRUE...
HUH?
WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT BLISS BLISTER HAS MADE CONTACT WITH A... AN ALIEN BEING!
NOW, BEFORE YOU START CALLING ME A NUTCASE, I WANT YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON WE'VE COOKED UP...
ALL OF THIS INFO HAS BEEN PIECED TOGETHER BY OUR FIELD AGENTS AND THE THINK TANK BOYS DOWN IN ZED COM...
SOMEONE GET THE LIGHTS...
-AND HEY, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT EVERYTHING YOU SEE AND HEAR TONIGHT IS STRICTLY TOP SECRET!

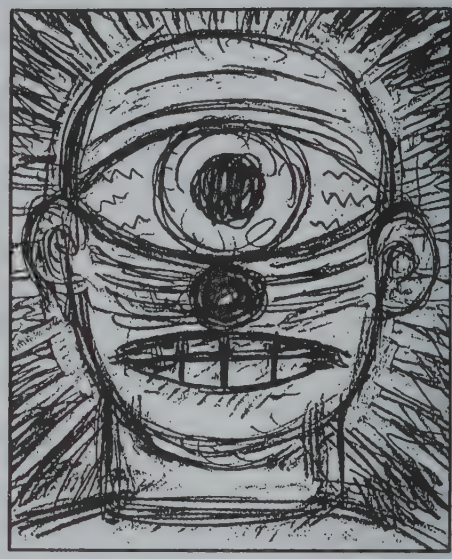
O.K., THE MAN YOU'RE LOOKING AT IS CARL HARDLY OF DEAD RIVER, NEBRASKA...



ON A FALL AFTERNOON, ABOUT TWELVE YEARS AGO, CARL WAS OUT CHOPPING WOOD IN HIS BACK YARD, WHEN HE SAW WHAT *HE* DESCRIBES AS "*WEIRD LIGHTS*"...



THIS IS A DRAWING HE MADE OF AN ALIEN BEING HE CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN EMERGING FROM THE LIGHTS...



SHORTLY AFTER CARL'S ALLEGED ALIEN SIGHTING, HE QUIT HIS JOB AND STARTED UP A RELIGIOUS CULT CALLED "*THE MYSTIC EYES*"...



WITHIN SIX MONTHS, HE AND HIS HANDFUL OF FOLLOWERS WERE ARRESTED ON CHARGES RANGING FROM INDECENT EXPOSURE TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER...



NEXT, WE HAVE VERA BELLOW OF DEARBORN, NEW JERSEY... AROUND TEN YEARS AGO VERA TELEPHONED THE DEARBORN TIMES AND TOLD REPORTERS ABOUT HER "*VISIT*" WITH AN ALIEN BEING...



SHE CLAIMED THAT A "*HUGE GLOWING MAN WITH ONE EYE*" APPEARED IN HER BEDROOM AND HAD "*INTIMATE RELATIONS*" WITH HER...



SHE EVENTUALLY GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY WHO SHE *INSISTED* WAS THE SON OF GOD...



THIS IS A PHOTO OF HER SON TAKEN A FEW YEARS AGO... HE *APPEARS* TO BE A NORMAL, HEALTHY CHILD IN EVERY WAY...



NOW WE COME TO KARMEN REESEY, A COMIC BOOK ARTIST BASED IN TACOMA, WASHINGTON...



HE TOO, CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN VISITED BY A HUGE, GOD-LIKE BEING WITH ONE EYE...



ALTHOUGH HE CONTINUED TO WORK FOR THE *TINY TOT* COMIC BOOK COMPANY, HIS STORIES BEGAN TO BE A LITTLE TOO ***BIZARRE*** FOR THE AVERAGE READER...



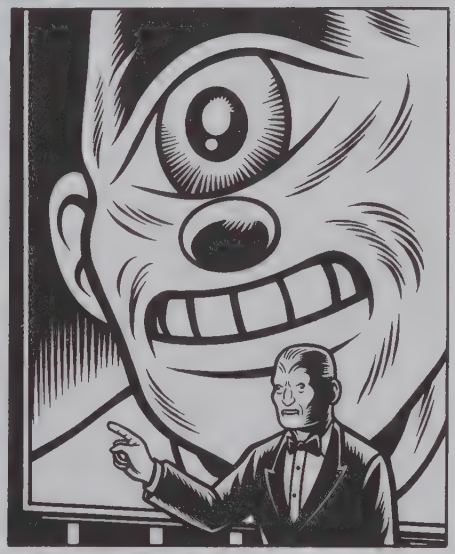
HIS EDITORS FINALLY GOT FED UP AND GAVE HIM THE BOOT... CURRENTLY HE'S PUBLISHING A SERIES OF RELIGIOUS PAMPHLETS IN COMIC FORM...



...AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, WE HAVE BLISS BLISTER...



MR. BLISTER CAME TO OUR ATTENTION ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN HE ANNOUNCED TO HIS FOLLOWERS THAT HE HAD FINALLY SEEN THE FACE OF GOD...

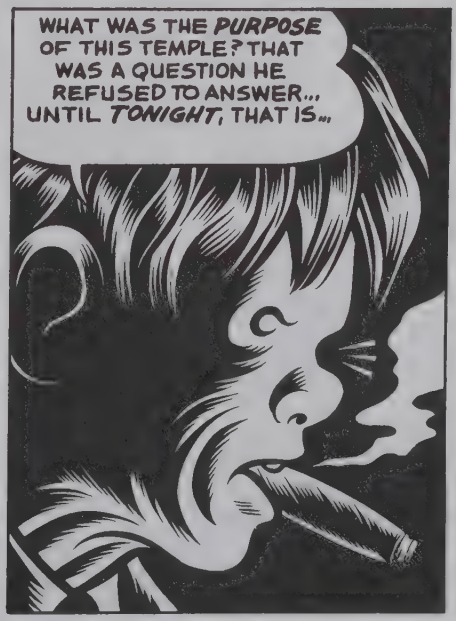


...AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, HIS CONGREGATION WASN'T TOO THRILLED WITH THE IDEA OF WORSHIPING A ONE EYED GOD...



...AND THEY WERE EVEN ***LESS*** THRILLED WHEN BLISTER WENT ON TO DESCRIBE A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ***TEMPLE*** HE WAS BUILDING HIGH UP IN THE BLACK HILL MOUNTAINS...






NOW THE WORD'S OUT... MILLIONS OF TELEVISION VIEWERS WATCHED BLISS BLISTER TONIGHT...
...AND I CAN GUARANTEE, THAT BY TOMORROW MORNING, THERE WILL BE THOUSANDS,..HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE STRUGGLING TO REACH THAT TEMPLE...THAT "HOUSE OF GOD"!
THOUSANDS OF POOR FOOLS WHO BELIEVE THAT ON JUNE FIRST, THE WORLD IS COMING TO AN END AND THAT ONLY BLISS BLISTER CAN OFFER SHELTER FROM THE STORM!
THE NEXT MORNING...
THIS IS BRUCE BABCOCK REPORTING FROM THE ENTRANCE OF BLISS BLISTER'S SO CALLED "HOUSE OF GOD"...
IS THIS ENTRANCE TRULY A GATEWAY TO HEAVEN? THAT'S WHAT BLISS BLISTER WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE...
...AND APPARENTLY THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE BEHIND ME ARE CONVINCED HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!

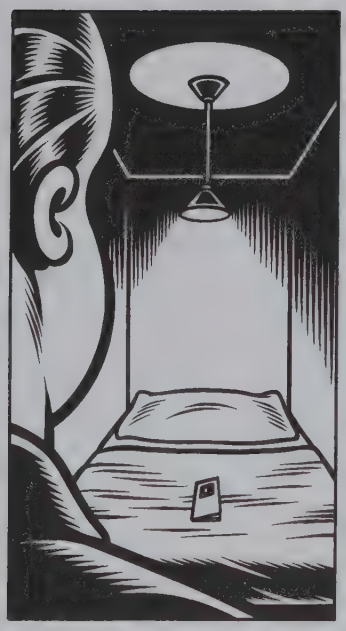

NOW LET'S TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO TALK WITH SOME OF THE FOLKS WHO'VE COME OUT HERE TODAY...
EXCUSE ME SIR, CAN YOU TELL US WHY YOU'RE HERE THIS MORNING?
IT... IT'S ALL COMIN' DOWN, MAN...
I KNEW IT WOULD COME TO THIS... THE DRUGS, THE RACE WARS, THE TEEN PLAGUE... I SAW THE SIGNS... NOW WE GOTTA PAY!
AND YOU SIR?
UM... I DON'T KNOW IF I BUY ALL THAT END OF THE WORLD CRAP, BUT WHO KNOWS? I'M HERE JUST IN CASE!
I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT IF BLISS BLISTER SAYS THE WORLD IS COMING TO AN END, THEN I BELIEVE HIM...
...AND I ALSO BELIEVE THAT HE IS THE TRUE VOICE OF GOD... IN FACT, HE IS GOD!
MY ONLY WISH, MY ONLY PRAYER, IS THAT BLISS BLISTER WILL ENTER MY, UMM... MY HEART...
...AND DELIVER ME FROM THIS VEIL OF SORROW
CLICK!
SORROW... HAH! SHE'S GOING TO BE SORRY IF SHE DOESN'T MAKE IT IN! THEY'LL ALL BE SORRY!


'CAUSE THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR 20,000 PEOPLE... AND WHEN WE'RE FULL, TH-TH-TH-THAT'S ALL FOLKS!
THE BIG CLOCK IS TICKING AND THE BIG GUY IS WATCHING!
HUH...I WONDER WHAT DAY IT IS ANYWAY? AND WHERE ARE MY DRUGS?
DEC. 3
THIS IS JURGENS...THE LAST GROUP IS LOADED ON THE BUS...YOU CAN CLOSE THE MAIN GATES NOW...
WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM HERE, SIR! THE MAIN GATE HAS JUST BEEN TORN DOWN!
STEP ON IT! THEY'VE BUSTED THROUGH!


A FEW MINUTES LATER...
ATTENTION SECURITY! THE LAST LOAD IS IN! PROCEED WITH PLAN C!
YES, SIR!
ALL SYSTEMS CHECK ON PLAN C!
BEGINNING COUNTDOWN... 10...9...8...
7... 6...5...
4... 3...2...
1...
CLICK!
BLAAM!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE COMPOUND...
W-WHAT WAS THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION!
NEVER MIND...JUST WALK OVER TO THE REGISTRATION TABLE AND GET YOUR I.D. BRACELET...
OOW! WATCH IT! THAT HURTS!
YOU ARE NOW J23-Z...WAIT IN SECTOR Z FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS...


ALRIGHT, Z'S... FIRST OF ALL, I WANT YOU TO TAKE OFF ALL YOUR CLOTHES, AND THROW THEM IN THE BIN...
WAIT A SECOND! I AIN'T STRIPPIN' DOWN FOR NOBODY!
LISTEN... THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE... EITHER YOU TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF, OR I KICK YOUR FAT ASS OUT OF HERE!
ANYBODY ELSE GOTTA PROBLEM? FINE... WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH UNDRESSING, PROCEED DOWN CORRIDOR 3 TO THE SHOWER STALLS...
3
...AND WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH DRYING OFF, MARCY WILL GIVE YOU A PAIR OF OVERALLS...
ONE SIZE FITS ALL...
JESUS, THIS IS REALLY WEIRD! WHERE ARE THEY TAKING US NOW?
LET'S KEEP IT QUIET BACK THERE!
ALRIGHT, Z'S... HERE'S WHERE YOU BUNK DOWN... YOU'VE GOT A CUBICLE THAT CORRESPONDS TO THE NUMBER ON YOUR I.D. BRACELET...
YOU'LL HAVE 20 MINUTES TO SETTLE IN BEFORE LIGHTS OUT...
LIGHTS OUT?











Congratulations! You've **made** it! On behalf of Bliss Blister and the entire staff, we'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to **GOD's** house! This handy little booklet will help you get acquainted with the compound and lay down a few simple ground rules.



We're going to do everything we can to make your last few months on earth a safe and pleasant experience...but do you know what? There's something **you** can do to help us! You can be a **team** member!



Just like in football or any other sport, it takes **team** effort to win! And if we want to win a place in heaven, we've got to play by the rules! Rule number one is simple: **GOD** is the team captain, so anything **HE** says, goes!



Almighty **GOD** created heaven and earth, but even **GOD** needs a little help every now and then! That's why **HE** placed Bliss Blister and his staff in charge of carrying out **HIS** will!






JAN.
25
HOW'S IT GOING B37-H?
HUH? OH, HI... JEEZ, I'M STILL NOT USED TO THIS SERIAL NUMBER STUFF...
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN... THIS JOINT GAVE ME THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES AT FIRST... IT FELT LIKE BEING IN PRISON OR SOMETHING...
IT'S NOT SO BAD... AT LEAST THE FOOD'S GOOD...
YEAH, I MUST HAVE PUT ON A GOOD TEN POUNDS SINCE I'VE BEEN IN HERE...
FEB.
11
YOU CAN STILL HEAR THEM OUT THERE SCREAMING... ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT...
WHO?
ALL THOSE POOR, LOST SOULS CAMPED OUT AROUND THE COMPOUND...
RIGHT... WELL, JUST THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS YOU MADE IT IN...
I HEARD SOMEONE EVEN TRIED TO PARACHUTE IN... I THINK THEY HAD TO SHOOT HIM...
MAR.
3
...REMEMBER, WHEN YOUR SECTOR NUMBER IS CALLED, PROCEED TO
PSSST! HEY! HAVE YOU SEEN THAT BIG THRONE THEY'VE RIGGED UP?
...AND WAIT UNTIL YOUR COLOR CODE APPEARS ON THE...
IT'S HUGE! YOU THINK GOD'S REALLY GONNA COME DOWN AND SIT THERE?
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A SCIENCE FICTION STORY, OR -
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LISTENING TO THIS... IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP, I'M GOING TO REPORT YOU!


MAR. 14
...AND IF HE IS SOME KIND OF AN ALIEN, WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE? ENTERTAINMENT? SEX? FOOD?
MAR. 29
YEAH...I CAN FEEL IT... THE MOTHER SHIP! IT'S GETTING CLOSER... CLOSER!
APR. 4
NAPALM? GEE, I DON'T KNOW... WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE LIVES OF 20,000 PEOPLE!
APR. 16
I GUESS THEY FOUND BLISTER CRAWLING DOWN THE HALL TALKING TO HIMSELF... DOC SAY'S IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...
APR. 23
MMM... GOOD DINNER... I WONDER WHAT KIND OF MEAT THIS IS? IT'S DELICIOUS!
YEAH... YUMMY...
APR. 30
20,000 PEOPLE? SO WHAT? NO SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE U.S. OF A.!
XXX
MAY 5
THERE'S NO IMPROVEMENT... I'M GOING TO PUT HIM ON OXYGEN FOR A WHILE...
MAY 16
PLEASE, GOD... PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE! I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT... MY HOUSE, MY MONEY, MY WIFE, ANYTHING! JUST TAKE ME WITH YOU!
MAY 22


MAY 26
AGENT RAYMOND REPORTING, SIR... MR. BLISTER'S CONDITION REMAINS STABLE...NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN DAILY ROUTINE...
MAY 30
UMM...HUH/ CLOSER... GETTING CLOSER...
MAY 31
CALL THE CHIEF! I'VE GOT SOMETHING ON THE SCREEN AND... AND I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!
JUN. 1
YEAH, WE CAN SEE IT EASILY NOW... AND IT'S COMING DOWN FAST!
JESUS... IT'S HUGE!


MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE COMPOUND...
GREETINGS, MY CHILDREN... THE TIME HAS COME!
IF ALL IS IN READINESS, THEN LET THE LOADING BEGIN!
ATTENTION SECTOR A! ATTENTION SECTOR A! REPORT TO THE LOADING DOCK IMMEDIATELY!
JEEZ...THIS IS CRAZY! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S REALLY HAPPENING!
I...I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK!


AGENT RUPERT REPORTING! HE'S HERE! HE-HE JUST MATERIALIZED!...AND HIS EYE! IT'S...IT'S...
JUST CALM DOWN, RUPERT... WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING FROM HERE ON OUT... AND RUPERT? GOOD WORK!
HMM... TOO BAD...HE WAS ONE OF OUR BEST AGENTS...
HELLO, GENERAL? WE'VE GOT CONDITION GREEN!
TWO MINUTES LATER...
WE'RE ON, BOYS! WE'VE GOT CONDITION GREEN! NOW GET IN THERE AND NAIL THOSE SONS O' BITCHES!
ROGER, BIG DADDY!
MEANWHILE, BACK INSIDE THE COMPOUND...
EVERYTHING IS PROCEEDING IN AN ORDERLY FASHION...SECTORS A THROUGH C HAVE BEEN LOADED AND D THROUGH F ARE STANDING BY...
HUH...WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE JETS!


BWAAAAMMM!
GOT 'EM! NOW DIE... DIE ALIEN SCUM!


TWELVE HOURS LATER...
MAN, WHAT A WASTE OF TIME...NOTHING COULD LIVE THROUGH THAT KINDA FIRE...
YEAH... SOME COOKOUT...
HEH, HEH...ALL THAT MEAT AND NO POTATOES!
GUH... GAAHH...
AAHH...GAAH...HUH? W-WHERE AM I? CAN'T MOVE...N-NO...NO! JESUS CHRIST! I'M BACK!
IT'S STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN! HE LIED! I DID EVERYTHING HE TOLD ME TO DO! EVERYTHING!
...AND...AND HE SENT ME TO HELL ANYWAY!
...BUT IF THIS IS HELL, WHERE'S ALL THE FLAMES? OH, YEAH...I REMEMBER...THE FLAMES CAME FIRST...
...AND THEN THE PAIN...
LOOK, SON...I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU...THIS IS GOING TO HURT LIKE HECK...

YEAH, IT *HURT* ALRIGHT...IT HURT LIKE *HELL!*



I REMEMBER DAD GIVING ME AN INJECTION...IT DIDN'T REALLY STOP THE PAIN, BUT IT MADE THE PAIN A LITTLE LESS FOCUSED...



THE DRUGS MADE *ME* LESS FOCUSED... THEY SMOOTHED THE SHARP EDGES... THEY GAVE ME STRANGE, CRAZY DREAMS...



...BUT MY DREAMS WERE *NOTHING* COMPARED TO THE CRAZY PLANS MY DAD HAD COOKED UP...







UNDERSTAND? NO...I GUESS THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT I'LL *NEVER* UNDERSTAND...








WHA-? WHAT'S THAT? S-SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE TALKING... DAD?
DAD! DOWN HERE! LET ME OUT! LEMME OUT! DAAAD!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM OVER THERE!
A FEW HOURS LATER...
HERE, LET'S LIFT HIM OUT... CAREFUL!
MAN...IT'S A MIRACLE! HOW COULD ANYONE LIVE THROUGH ALL THAT?
I'M FINE... I'M O.K. UH... WHERE'S DAD?
AW, JESUS! LOOK AT HIS BACK!
NO, MISTER... YOU'RE NOT O.K.!
END


A MARRIAGE
MADE IN
HELL


WHAT YOU SEE BEHIND ME IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF BLISS BLISTER'S MILLION DOLLAR DREAM...
RICK'S HAND ON MY ARM WAS LIKE THE TOUCH OF AN ELECTRIC WIRE!
WHILE THE AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF THIS DISASTER...
I COULD FEEL MY BODY STIFFEN AND TINGLE...
...A VOLUNTEER TASK FORCE HAS BEEN CREATED TO HANDLE THE GRIM JOB OF RECOVERING THE DEAD...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT... IT'S JUST NOT WORKING...
WITH ME NOW IS BEDELIA HOLBURN WHO WAS ONE OF THE FIRST VOLUNTEERS...
GOSH, IF I DON'T COME UP WITH A GOOD YARN FOR SPOOKY LOVE STORIES I'LL REALLY BE IN HOT WATER...THE DEADLINE IS THURSDAY!
...TO ARRIVE ON THE SCENE...TELL ME MISS HOLBURN, WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST REACTION?
MAYBE A CIGARETTE WILL HELP...
I WAS ABSOLUTELY HORRIFIED! IT WAS LIKE A SCENE FROM HELL... NOTHING BUT SMOKE AND RUBBLE...THERE WERE BODIES, AND...AND PARTS OF BODIES STREWN EVERYWHERE...
...ALL BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION...
WAIT A MINUTE, MAYBE THAT'S IT! SOMETHING ABOUT HELL AND FIRE!
...THE WORK HERE IS ENDLESS...
LET'S SEE..."MY MARRIAGE WAS A LIVING HELL!" NO... HOW ABOUT "A MARRIAGE MADE IN HELL". PERFECT!
MY JOB IS PUTTING I.D. TAGS ON THE BODIES, AND...
MY MIND WAS REELING AS JOHN OPENED THE DOOR TO OUR NEW HOME...
2782


MY MIND WAS REELING AS JOHN OPENED THE DOOR TO OUR NEW HOME. HAD I REALLY JUST BEEN MARRIED? WAS I REALLY MRS. JOHN DOUGH? JOHN DOUGH...THE NAME STUCK IN MY THROAT...JOHN WAS THE BOY FOR WHOM I HAD WAITED AN ETERNITY. WAR HAD SEPARATED US, BUT NEVER ONCE HAD I LOST FAITH IN OUR LOVE...NOW AS I ENTERED OUR NEW HOME I FELT A SUDDEN PANG OF FEAR...A TERRIBLE SENSE OF EMPTINESS...
GEE, LYDIA...I WISH I COULD CARRY YOU ACROSS THE THRESHOLD... BUT I'M REALLY NOT UP TO IT YET...
DON'T BE SILLY JOHN... I UNDERSTAND...
WELL...LET ME GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THE HOUSE. THIS, OF COURSE IS THE LIVINGROOM...
HERE'S OUR DININGROOM...
...THE KITCHEN...
...AND THIS IS YOUR BEDROOM...
M-MY BEDROOM?


MY BEDROOM? WAS THIS SOME SORT OF CRUEL JOKE? AFTER ALL OF MY WAITING, WOULD MY NEED FOR COMPANIONSHIP BE DENIED ME?...I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THERE WOULD BE A FLAW IN THE PERFECT PICTURE I HAD PAINTED OF OUR MARRIAGE...I TRIED TO BE STRONG, BUT THE HOT STREAM OF TEARS FLOWING DOWN MY CHEEKS BETRAYED MY TRUE EMOTIONS...
PLEASE DON'T CRY HONEY... YOU MEAN THE WORLD TO ME AND I'D NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU...BUT...BUT I'M NOT THE SAME MAN YOU KNEW BEFORE THE WAR...
REMEMBER WHEN I EXPLAINED WHY I DIDN'T WRITE TO YOU FOR SO LONG? WELL...UH...IT WASN'T REALLY BECAUSE I LOST YOUR ADDRESS OVERSEAS...
....ACTUALLY I'VE SPENT THE LAST TWO YEARS IN A VETERANS HOSPITAL RECOVERING FROM SEVERE BURNS AND WOUNDS...
WHILE I WAS STATIONED IN THE PACIFIC OUR SHIP ENCOUNTERED AN ENEMY SNEAK ATTACK...
DURING THE BOMBING I HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF BEING NEAR A FUEL STORAGE TANK THAT EXPLODED...
WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE VETERANS HOSPITAL I FOUND OUT I HAD BEEN IN A COMA FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS.
IN THE EXPLOSION I SUSTAINED THIRD DEGREE BURNS ON ALMOST HALF OF MY BODY...WITH SKIN GRAFTS AND PLASTIC SURGERY THEY WERE ABLE TO PUT ME BACK TOGETHER AGAIN...
SO...I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY I'M A LITTLE RELUCTANT TO BE... UH...INTIMATE WITH YOU YET... THE DOCTORS SAY IT WILL TAKE TIME TO ADJUST TO MY NEW BODY...
THAT NIGHT AS I LAY IN BED I KEPT THINKING ABOUT THE HORRIBLE ORDEAL MY HUSBAND HAD BEEN THROUGH...
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO SELFISH?... ...THINKING ONLY OF MY ;SOB; CARNAL DESIRES...


THE NEXT MORNING...
'MORNING, HONEY! I HAD A GREAT NIGHT'S SLEEP! GEE, THAT SURE LOOKS SWELL...I'M STARVING!
HE'S STARVING? I'M THE ONE WHO'S STARVING... FOR LOVE!
WHEN JOHN AND I GAVE OUR WEDDING VOWS, I PROMISED TO LOVE, HONOR, AND CHERISH MY HUSBAND AND I WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP THAT PROMISE! AFTER JOHN LEFT FOR WORK I GOT DOWN TO THE TASK OF TURNING OUR HOUSE INTO A HOME... A HOME WHERE OUR LOVE COULD GROW AND WHERE JOHN COULD FORGET ABOUT THE MISFORTUNES OF THE PAST...
CLEANLINESS MIGHT BE NEXT TO GODLINESS, BUT ALL I WANT IS TO BE NEXT TO JOHN!
THAT EVENING AS WE SAT DOWN TO DINNER, WE WERE LIKE STRANGERS... OUR CONVERSATION SOUNDED LIKE LINES FROM A CHEAP PAPERBACK NOVEL.
GEE HONEY, THIS IS A GREAT MEAL...
OH, BY THE WAY, I JUST FOUND OUT I'LL BE AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS...THERE'S A BUYERS CONVENTION THIS TUESDAY...
THAT'S TOO BAD...I'LL MISS YOU.
WELL, YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE GETTING INTO WHEN YOU MARRIED A SALESMAN.


YES... I KNEW A WOMAN'S PLACE WAS IN THE HOME, AND WHILE JOHN WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS, I TRIED TO BE PATIENT. MY WORK KEPT ME BUSY FOR A WHILE, BUT IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I HAD COMPLETED ALL OF MY HOUSEHOLD DUTIES... NOTHING LEFT TO FILL THE LONG EMPTY AFTERNOONS... I FELT MY HEART TWISTING INSIDE OF ME... ACHING FOR COMPANIONSHIP...
MAYBE JOHN'S STUDY NEEDS DUSTING AGAIN... HMMM... I HAVEN'T NOTICED THESE MAGAZINES BEFORE...
LIVE
Let 'er rip!
WELL, HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT! THESE PAGES HAVE BEEN TORN OUT! I JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT HOW THIS STORY ON JOPO THE BABY GORILLA ENDS...
I CHANGED MY CLOTHES AND WALKED DOWN TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY... FOR THE MARCH 1944 ISSUE OF "LIVE."
I'M SORRY MISS BUT THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE RESERVED STACK FOR SOME TIME AND...
OH WELL, I GUESS IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT...
BUT GOODNESS, NO ONE EVER DID CLAIM IT. I DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAN'T READ IT HERE...
MY... THAT WAS NICE OF HER... AHHH... HERE'S MY ARTICLE...
OH, MY GOD!
THIS PHOTO ON THE NEXT PAGE... NOW I SEE WHY THE PAGES WERE TORN FROM THE MAGAZINE!


WHEN JOHN RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP, I WORKED UP THE COURAGE TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPH...
JEEPERS, HONEY... THAT WAS ONE OF THOSE U.S.O. GIRLS THAT MADE A SPECIAL VISIT TO OUR SHIP! SHE WAS ONLY KISSING ME FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHER!
HIS EXPLANATION SEEMED REASONABLE ENOUGH UNTIL LATER THAT DAY WHEN I WAS PUTTING AWAY SOME OF HIS THINGS...
PHOTOGRAPHS! HIDDEN IN HIS SOCK DRAWER! IT'S THE SAME WOMAN THAT WAS IN "LIVE" MAGAZINE!
OUR LIFE TOGETHER CONTINUED... A MONOTONOUS PARODY OF MARRIAGE. SEEDS OF DOUBT HAD BEEN PLANTED IN MY MIND... WAS JOHN'S STORY ABOUT HIS PHYSICAL AFFLICTION REALLY A LIE? WAS HE SECRETLY IN LOVE WITH A HOLLYWOOD SWEATER GIRL? ALL OF MY EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR MARRIAGE WORK NOW SEEMED USELESS...
DOUBT
WHAT'S THIS? LIPSTICK ON HIS COLLAR!.. AND I KNOW IT ISN'T MINE!
SNIFF-SNIFF... WHAT'S THAT SMELL? WHY... IT-IT'S PERFUME!
...AND WHAT'S THIS FUNNY LOOKING THING?
JOHN CONTINUED TO TAKE HIS LONG SALES TRIPS.
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY LONGER! IF I DON'T GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE I'LL GO CRAZY!
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY WAS CLOSE BY AND SOON BECAME A HOME AWAY FROM HOME WHERE I COULD DROWN MY SORROWS IN THE MYRIAD PAGES OF ITS WELL STOCKED ROMANCE SECTION. ONLY THE MOST SCORCHING OF FICTION COULD MAKE ME FORGET THE COLD HARD FACTS OF MY MARRIAGE AND MISS HOLBURN THE LIBRARIAN WAS ALWAYS THERE WITH A WARM SMILE AND A HOT NEW TITLE...
LYDIA, THIS IS THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE CHECKED OUT FOREVER AMBER... SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG... AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMAN LIKE YOU SHOULD BE OUT LIVING LIFE...


I CAN SENSE THESE THINGS... YOU KNOW A FRIENDLY CHAT WITH A SYMPATHETIC EAR OVER AN ICE CREAM SODA CAN REALLY WORK WONDERS...
WELL... O.K. THANKS MISS HOLBURN.
LATER...
I THOUGHT WE COULD DO A LITTLE WINDOW SHOPPING FIRST, LYDIA.
YOU KNOW MISS HOLBURN, EXCEPT FOR MY HOUSE AND YOUR READING ROOM I REALLY HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH OF THIS TOWN.
149
THIS WAS THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN YEARS! THAT LINGERIE SHOP HAD SUCH PRETTY THINGS...I JUST WISH I HAD SOME INCENTIVE TO VISIT IT MORE OFTEN...
WE WENT TO AN ICE CREAM PARLOR AND TOOK A QUIET CORNER BOOTH WHERE I POURED OUT MY WHOLE SORDID STORY TO MISS HOLBURN.
LYDIA...I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT, BUT YOU JUST CAN'T GIVE UP! YOU'RE TOO FULL OF LIFE TO LET YOUR HUSBAND DESTROY YOU!
WELL...TO TELL THE TRUTH I'M NOT POSITIVE THAT HE'S SEEING THIS OTHER WOMAN, BUT HE...UHH...
LYDIA! WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE JUST SEEN A GHOST!
LYDIA! WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THERE WAS NO TIME TO EXPLAIN TO HER... I STUMBLED OUT OF THE RESTAURANT JUST IN TIME TO SEE MY HUSBAND TURN THE CORNER...
JOHN TOLD ME THAT HE WOULDN'T BE BACK UNTIL NEXT WEEK!
I FOLLOWED HIM INTO A SHABBY NEIGHBORHOOD, AND WATCHED HIM CLIMB THE STAIRS TO A SMALL DECREPIT HOUSE.
IS IT POSSIBLE? IS HE MEETING... THAT WOMAN HERE?


I WAS COMPELLED TO FOLLOW... TO CATCH HIM RED-HANDED... TO UNLOCK THE MYSTERY THAT HAD DESTROYED OUR LOVE...
SHHH!
WHAP!
WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS I FELT A TERRIBLE THROBBING PAIN IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD...
I FOUND MYSELF IN A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION.
SOMEONE ELSE WAS IN THE ROOM WITH ME...IT WAS THAT WOMAN! THE WOMAN IN ALL OF MY HUSBAND'S PHOTOGRAPHS!
WHA...WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME? WHERE'S JOHN?


YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND? I'LL GIVE YOU PLENTY TO WORRY ABOUT BEFORE THE NIGHT'S THROUGH! NOW...LET ME TELL YOU A STORY... A TRUE STORY...
THE STORY IS ABOUT A HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR GIRL WHO DID HER PART FOR THE WAR EFFORT BY ENTERTAINING G.I.'S IN THE PACIFIC...
DURING THE LONG TOURS SHE GOT INTO THE HABIT OF ENTERTAINING THE TROOPS IN A MORE INTIMATE MANNER...
ONE OF THE LUCKY G.I.'S WAS CALLED JOHN DOUGH...
WAIT A MINUTE! YOUR VOICE! IT...IT SOUNDS SO FAMILIAR!
PERHAPS A FEW OF YOUR QUESTIONS COULD BE ANSWERED IF YOU TOOK A CLOSER LOOK AT ME...
I WAS SPEECHLESS WITH HORROR! I FELT LIKE MY BRAIN WAS ON A ROLLERCOASTER RIDE TO OBLIVION! WHEN I GATHERED MY SENSES, I HEARD JOHN CONTINUING HIS STORY IN A SLOW MONOTONE...
...SO ANYWAY, ONE EVENING THIS GLAMOUR GIRL WAS IN THE ARMS OF YOUR DEAREST BELOVED WHEN ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE!
BLAM!
THE NEXT DAY TWO BODIES WERE FOUND IN THE DEBRIS...
THEY'RE BURNED TO A CRISP...JE-ZUS H. CHRIST! THIS ONE'S STILL ALIVE! THE NAME ON HIS TAG IS JOHN DOUGH!

THE SURVIVING BODY WAS SHIPPED TO A VETERANS HOSPITAL WHERE DOCTORS STARTED FACIAL RECONSTRUCTION AND SKIN GRAFTS...

WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB AHEAD OF US...THERE'S NOTHING MUCH LEFT OF THIS ONE...HOLD THAT PHOTO **STILL** YOU LITTLE PEA-BRAIN!

EIGHTEEN MONTHS LATER JOHN DOUGH JOINED THE LIVING AGAIN...

HEY **NURSE!** WHAT THE HELL DID THEY **DO** TO ME!

A FEW THINGS WERE OUT OF PLACE...

NOW JOHN... JUST CALM DOWN...

BUT MY NAME IS **NOT** JOHN! IT'S **BRENDA!**

THE LAST THING THAT I REMEMBER BEFORE BEING KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE BLAST WAS CLINGING TO JOHN'S DOGTAGS...BECAUSE OF MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION I WAS A WOMAN TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF A MAN...

JOHN DOUGH 7835716823

I FINALLY REALIZED THE ONLY WAY I'D BE RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL WOULD BE TO PLAY ALONG WITH THEM...

HERE'S SOME LETTERS AND PHOTOS OF YOUR GIRL BACK HOME...DO YOU REMEMBER HER?

OH YEAH... IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME NOW...

I GUESS I REALLY **WAS** A LITTLE CRAZY... FOR A WHILE THERE I CONVINCED MYSELF I'D BE ABLE TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE... AS A **MAN!**

OH JOHN! IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU HOME! I'D ALMOST GIVEN UP ALL HOPE!

BACK WHEN I WAS ACTING IN ALL OF THOSE LOW-BUDGET HOLLYWOOD FILMS, I PLAYED WOMEN EXACTLY LIKE YOU... TRUE-BLUE, ALL-AMERICAN, WAITING AT HOME WITH AN APPLE PIE... BUT YOU, YOU WEREN'T **ACTING!** I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

I FELT AS IF I WAS IN THE WORST MOVIE EVER MADE... AND I HAD FORGOTTEN ALL OF MY LINES..

YOU KNOW JOHN... EVERYTIME I HEAR THE "STAR SPANGLED BANNER" I START TO CRY... I THINK ABOUT HOW YOU AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER BOYS RISKED THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT OUR WONDERFUL DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE!

AFTER ALL I HAD BEEN THROUGH, MY BRAIN FELT **COOKED**... I WAS SO FAR GONE THAT MARRIAGE SEEMED LIKE THE MOST REASONABLE THING TO DO AT THE TIME.

...AND THESE ARE THE GOWNS I'VE PICKED OUT FOR THE BRIDESMAIDS! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

UH...GEE, THEY LOOK REALLY GREAT, HONEY.

BRIDE

LUCKILY JOHN DOUGH DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A PERSONALITY...I HAD NO TROUBLE GETTING HIS OLD JOB BACK...

SO YOU'RE GETTIN MARRIED, HUH? WELL, US FELLAS WILL JUST HAVE TO THROW YOU A **BACHELOR** PARTY!

AT FIRST IT WAS ALMOST INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVED...

OH, MAMA! YOU HAVE WHAT IT **TAKES!**

BOY... I WOULDN'T KICK **HER** OUT OF BED!

...BUT IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE MY INTEREST TURNED TO CONTEMPT...

NOW LEMME TELL YOU ONE THING ABOUT WOMEN...YOU GOTTA LET 'EM KNOW WHO'S **BOSS!**..EVEN IF IT MEANS SMACKING 'EM AROUND A LITTLE...

SOON AFTER WE WERE MARRIED IT BECAME CLEAR THAT MY IMPERSONATION OF JOHN DOUGH WASN'T WORKING...

IT'S FOR MY WIFE.

...SO I STARTED LIVING TWO LIVES... MY "BUSINESS TRIPS" MADE IT EASY!

THIS IS FOR MY WIFE, BUT DO YOU MIND IF I TRY IT ON?

I EVEN RENTED THIS HOUSE SO I COULD INDULGE MYSELF IN MY FANTASIES...

BUT NOW IT'S ALL OVER, ISN'T IT? YOU **HAD** TO FOLLOW ME HERE, DIDN'T YOU?

JOHN WAS MAD... STARK RAVING **MAD!** IT TOOK EVERY OUNCE OF WILLPOWER TO SUPPRESS THE SCREAM THAT WAS RISING IN MY THROAT...I WAS FROZEN IN TERROR BUT I PRAYED FOR THE COURAGE TO SOMEHOW SURVIVE THIS UNGODLY PLIGHT...

YOU KNOW YOU'RE REALLY NOT TOO BRIGHT, LYDIA... ANYONE WHO WOULD WAIT FOUR YEARS FOR A TWO-TIMING HALF-WIT LIKE JOHN DOUGH DOESN'T **DESERVE** TO LIVE!

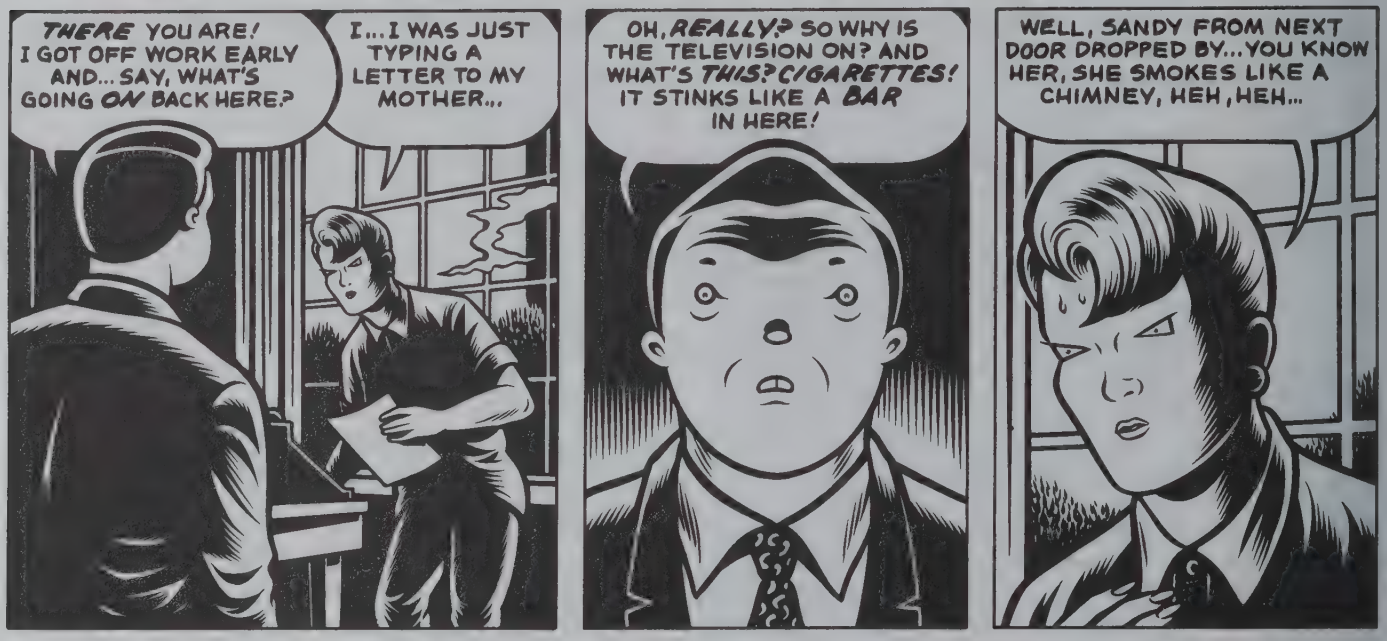
JOHN... PLEASE!

YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU LYDIA? JOHN DOUGH WAS BURNED TO A **CRISP!**

...AND SINCE YOU LOVED HIM SO MUCH I'M SURE YOU'RE ANXIOUS TO **JOIN** HIM!


ALRIGHT... I'VE HEARD ENOUGH... NOW DROP IT!
BAM! BAM! BAM!
HURRY MISS HOLBURN...THE DRAPES ARE ON FIRE!
PLEASE, CALL ME BEDELIA!
AS THE SUFFOCATING INFERNO RAGED BEHIND US AND JOHN'S FLESH BURNED FOR THE LAST TIME...
BEDELIA...
MY HEART CAUGHT FIRE AS WELL...I FOUND WHAT TRUE LOVE CAN BE...BEDELIA WAS AN ANGEL WHO LIFTED ME FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL TO THE UNIMAGINABLE HEIGHTS OF ECSTASY... WHAT A FOOL I HAD BEEN...FOR HERE ALL ALONG WAS MY TRUE LOVE!
I LOVE YOU LYDIA...
HA! I LOVE IT! IT'S JUST PERFECT FOR SPOOKY LOVE STORIES!
IT'S HOT AND STEAMY AND...
HONEY? WHERE ARE YOU?
OH, MY GOD! IT'S HIM! WHAT'S HE DOING HOME?




THERE YOU ARE! I GOT OFF WORK EARLY AND... SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON BACK HERE?
I...I WAS JUST TYPING A LETTER TO MY MOTHER...
OH, REALLY? SO WHY IS THE TELEVISION ON? AND WHAT'S THIS? CIGARETTES! IT STINKS LIKE A BAR IN HERE!
WELL, SANDY FROM NEXT DOOR DROPPED BY...YOU KNOW HER, SHE SMOKES LIKE A CHIMNEY, HEH, HEH...


GOSH DARN IT HONEY! THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND! THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN LIFE THAT ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WRITING LETTERS AND... AND WATCHING T.V.!
LOOK... I HAVE A JOB TO DO AND YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO! YOUR JOB IS TO TURN THIS HOUSE INTO A HOME! GOT IT?
YES, JOHN.
END

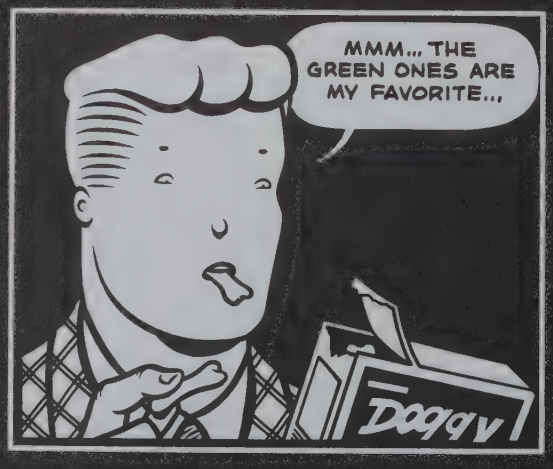


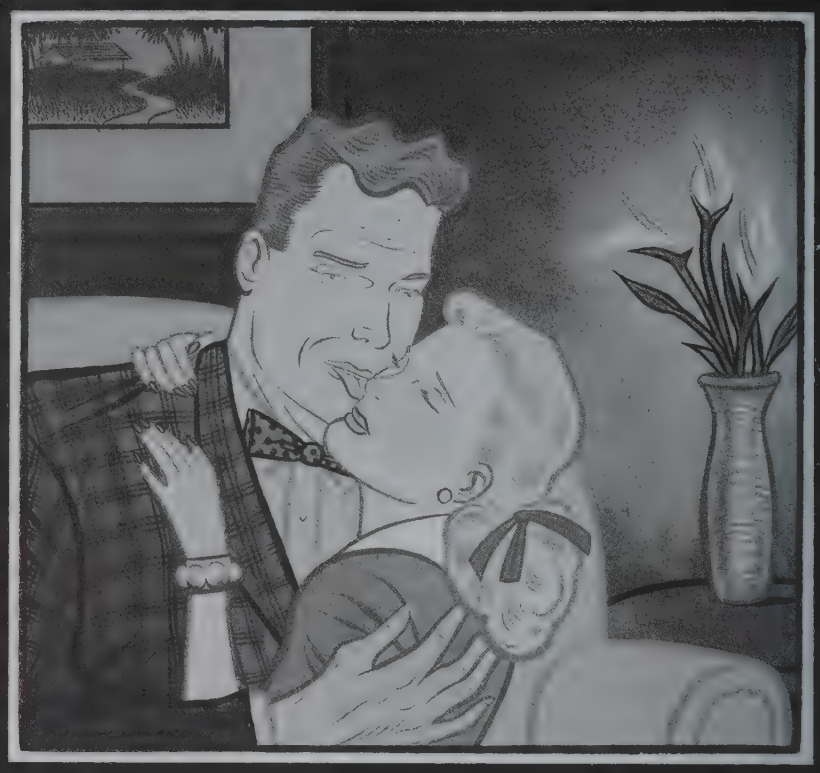
EPILOGUE

The three stories that appear in *Skin Deep* were originally serialized in my weekly comic strip *Big Baby* between 1988 and 1991. The stories don't have all that much in common, other than the fact that the characters appear to inhabit the same planet. With a few exceptions, it's a cold, cruel world.

One of the only inhabitants who seems to be having any fun is Dog-Boy, who made his comic book debut in the third issue of RAW Magazine way back in 1981. My first take on Dog-Boy was that he was sort of a one-dimensional, one-gag kind of character. "You know, guy gets dog heart, guy licks faces." In "Dog Days," I tried to open up and expand on the initial concept and take a closer look at what makes an all-American boy with a labrador heart tick.

I got the inspiration for "Burn Again" from reading a newspaper article about an insurance investigator from South Jersey who took a photo of a burning chicken coop and, after having the film processed, saw an image of Jesus in the flames. It was the perfect springboard for the kind of whacked-out, stranger-than-fiction story exploring religious fervor I'd always wanted to write. I'd also always wanted to have God as one of my lead characters. My God is an angry God...in fact, He's really, *really pissed!*















TOP: The first two pages of "Judgement Day," an unfinished story featuring God as a lead character, 1986.
BOTTOM: An edited portion of "A Marriage Made in Hell."

"A Marriage Made in Hell" came about from reading a few too many love comics from the '40s and '50s. I wrote the story for the sixth issue of RAW Magazine. After a number of major editorial revisions, the love interest was transformed from a typical, square-jawed Hollywood hunk into the elderly, mousy, but very attentive Bedelia Holburn.

OPPOSITE PAGE

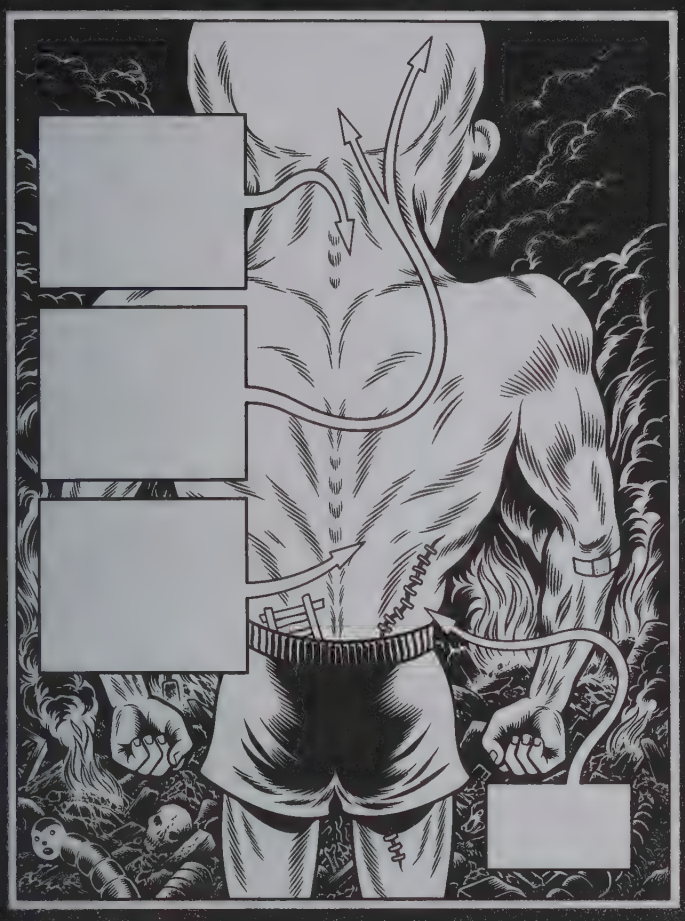
TOP RIGHT: An early version of Dog-Boy, 1980.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Cover to Blast magazine, 1991.



Artwork for the front cover to *Skin Deep*, Penguin Books, 1992.

OPPOSITE PAGE

TOP LEFT: Artwork for the back cover to *Skin Deep*, Penguin Books, 1992.
TOP RIGHT: Artwork for the contents page to *Skin Deep*, Penguin Books, 1992.
BOTTOM: Artwork for the end papers to *Skin Deep*, Penguin Books, 1992.









Animal self-portrait, 1992.

OPPOSITE PAGE

TOP: *Big Baby* wallpaper strip, 1991.
BOTTOM: The original heads for the *Big Baby* wallpaper strip, 1991.

BIG BABY

BY C. BURNS ©1991

TIME OUT FOR A SPECIAL TREAT! WALLPAPER! ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS XEROX THIS COMIC A FEW TIMES AND GLUE 'EM ALL ON YOUR WALL! BEAUTIFUL!











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